OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 1/02 Vol. 45, No. 1

Keep the Kingdom First

[1] Putting God's Kingdom first in life and keeping it there is not easy when we are faced with economic pressures or other problems. How do we *keep* the Kingdom first when difficulties arise? What if we are offered a job that requires us to miss the meetings or that interferes with our field service? Must the Kingdom then take second place in life?

[2] **Strong Faith Is Necessary:** When our faith is tested under such circumstances, we must not lose sight of Jehovah's promise and Jesus' assurance of divine support if we seek first the Kingdom. (Ps. 37:25; Matt. 6:31-34) Worldly influences and pressures could cloud our view and prevent us from keeping the Kingdom paramount. Some have allowed prospects for prominence on the job or for financial gain to become the main thing in life. However, like Paul, we need to appraise accurately what really counts in life.—Phil. 3:7, 8.

[3] **Are Adjustments Needed?** A publisher said: "My heart was in my business—it was my greatest love. I felt I could still be a Witness while dedicating most of my time to business interests." But she had a nagging feeling that she could do more to serve Jehovah. In time, she gave up the business that was an obstacle to her spiritual progress. Once she wholly devoted herself to the Kingdom work, she was able to say: "Now I feel my life is successful in Jehovah's eyes, which is what really matters."

[4] Commendably, many have given up secular careers and prospects for greater financial returns, simplified their lives, and entered the full-time service. Young, single ministerial servants and elders attending the Ministerial Training School have done this and are enjoying fine privileges of service. Imitating the sterling example of Paul, they are genuinely content with basic material provisions.—1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Tim. 6:6-8; Heb. 13:5.

[5] While our view of life may be ridiculed by the world, we have Jehovah's blessing. (1 Cor. 1:26-31) Is it not encouraging to know that he will use us as fully as possible and will help us to accomplish his work? Our present opportunity to proclaim God's established Kingdom will never be repeated. So now is the time to *keep* the Kingdom first in our lives.

'How Will They Hear?'

[1] Jesus emphatically stated: "In all the nations the good news has to be preached first." (Mark 13:10) Despite our diligent efforts, there are yet hundreds of millions of people who have not received a personal witness. Some governments restrict our work. Many lands have vast populations that keep growing at a fast pace. Hence, 'how will they hear?'—Rom. 10:14.

[2] **Have Confidence in Jehovah:** We must remember that Jehovah knows the heart condition of all people. No matter what a person's situation is, if he sincerely searches for the truth about God, he will find it. —1 Chron. 28:9.

[3] Abraham was anxious about the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. But God assured him that Sodom would not be destroyed even if only ten righteous people were found there. (Gen. 18:20, 23, 25, 32) Jehovah has never destroyed the righteous along with the wicked, as was shown by the deliverance of Lot and his daughters.—2 Pet. 2: 6-9.

[4] Elijah once thought that he was totally alone in serving the true God. However, Jehovah assured him that he was far from being alone and that the work he had begun would be completed. (1 Ki. 19:14-18) What about the situation in our day?

[5] **Stay Busy in God's Service:** On how much greater a scale the witness work is yet to be done, we do not know. Jehovah is responsible for this work and is using his angels to oversee it. (Rev. 14:6, 7) He is the one to determine to what extent the witness is to be given to all the nations. If Jehovah chooses, he can see that the Kingdom message is spread in ways that we cannot yet imagine so that many more people may "hear the word of the good news and believe." (Acts 15:7) What Jehovah does will be in full harmony with who he is—a loving, wise, and just God.

[6] It is our privilege to work in harmony with Jehovah's will, doing our best to let everyone hear the good news.—1 Cor. 9:16.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 14

Song 3

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Discuss the box "New Corporations Formed."

25 min: Benefiting From Kind Provisions. Talk by a qualified elder, based on the December 1, 2001, outline from the branch office. The congregation should have a sufficient quantity of the following items on hand for distribution: Advance Medical Directive/Release card, Identity Card, the health-care durable power of attorney (DPA) form, and the Advance Directive Guide. These documents will be made available to baptized publishers after tonight's meeting, but they should NOT be filled out tonight. Signing, witnessing, and dating of cards will be done at the next Congregation Book Study, with assistance where necessary from the book study conductor. Those signing as witnesses should actually see the individual sign the document. The Advance Directive Guide should be carefully considered before completing the DPA. If you have already executed a DPA, it will not be necessary to complete another one unless your current one is dated prior to 2001 or does not express your present wishes. If a publisher has moved to another state, he should execute a new DPA form for that state. Unbaptized publishers may write out their own directive for themselves and their children by adapting language from these documents to their own circumstances and convictions.

10 min: "What to Say About the Magazines." Demonstrations of how to present the January 15 *Watchtower* and the January 22 *Awake!* Encourage all publishers to support Magazine Day.

Song 55 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 21

Song 104

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Discuss the box "Set Something Aside."

13 min: Are You Examining the Scriptures Daily? A family discussion. To increase the benefits of their daily text discussion, they consider the December 15, 1996, *Watchtower,* page 18, paragraphs 13-14. Briefly review two or three day texts covered recently, and explain how the information proved to be especially beneficial. Emphasize that this provision should be one part of a program of regular family Bible study designed to keep them spiritually active.

22 min: *"Keep* the Kingdom First."* Include a few questions on the main points from the September 1, 1998, *Watchtower,* pages 19-21.

Song 168 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 28

Song 196

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Using suggestions on page 8, demonstrate two brief magazine presentations, one using the February 1 *Watchtower* and the other using the February 8 *Awake!* Mention the literature offer for February, highlighting the books that the congregation has in stock.

20 min: "Parents—Train Your Children From Infancy."* Include comments on April 15, 1998, *Watchtower,* page 32. Invite parents to relate good results they have achieved by starting the spiritual training of their children in infancy.

15 min: Local needs. Invite publishers to relate experiences they have had using the *Reasoning* book, offering specific brochures to answer people's questions, or giving Scriptural comfort from the brochure *When Someone You Love Dies.* Perhaps reenact one or two experiences.

Song 202 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 4

Song 212

8 min: Local announcements.

17 min: "How Will They Hear?"* Draw comments from the audience on how the scriptures apply. Include questions for paragraphs 17-18 on page 20 in the August 15, 1998, *Watchtower.*

20 min: "Suggested Field Service Presentations." Audience discussion to be handled by the service overseer. This insert contains suggested presentations that have appeared in past issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* along with some that are new. The blank lines may be used to write in other suggestions that appear in the future and that prove effective in the local territory. Invite audience to tell which presentations they especially like and why. Demonstrate one or two that can be used with the literature offer for February. Encourage all publishers to save this insert and refer to it often when preparing for the ministry.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

"Set Something Aside"

In the early Christian congregation, there were material needs that required attention. As each person prospered, he was urged to "set something aside" as a contribution to meet those needs. (1 Cor. 16:1-3) As a result of their generosity, all rejoiced at giving "many expressions of thanks to God."—2 Cor. 9:11, 12.

Today the worldwide work of Jehovah's people keeps expanding, requiring ever-increasing financial support. It is appropriate that we too "set something aside" regularly to help fill the need. (2 Cor. 8:3, 4) Material giving can be done in a variety of ways. (See the November 1, 2001, *Watchtower,* pages 28-9.) We rightly view this as a privilege that brings real happiness. —Acts 20:35.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	131	122.1	117.8	57.4	5.2
Pios.	90,200	69.6	51.3	22.2	1.8
Aux. Pios.	26,658	50.8	40.7	13.7	0.9
Pubs.	845,578	9.7	9.0	3.6	0.3
TOTAL	962,567			Baptized:	2,635

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Save Suggested Field Service Presentations

How to Use This Insert

Most of the following presentations appeared in past issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Try as many as you wish in your witnessing activity, and see what results you obtain. Save this insert, and refer to it when preparing for the ministry.

You may arouse a person's interest in God's Word if you get to the point quickly. Raise a specific question, then read the brief Scriptural answer. You might try these suggestions:

"As you contemplate the future, do you feel hopeful or doubtful? [Allow for response.] The Bible predicted the unsettling events we see today and their outcome."—2 Tim. 3:1, 2, 5; Prov. 2:21, 22.

"There is much concern today about health care. Did you know that God promises that he will permanently solve all health problems?" —Isa. 33:24; Rev. 21:3, 4.

"Did you know that the Bible foretells that eventually there will be only one government ruling the whole world?"—Dan. 2:44; Matt. 6: 9, 10.

"What do you think conditions would be like if Jesus Christ ruled the earth?"—Ps. 72:7, 8.

"Many people suffer discrimination because of their gender, religion, or race. How do you think God feels about such prejudice?"—Acts 10:34, 35.

"We know that Jesus Christ performed many miracles in his day. If you could ask him to perform one more miracle, what would it be?"—Ps. 72:12-14, 16.

"Most people are tired of hearing about problems. They want to hear about solutions. But where can we find real solutions to our problems?"—2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

"Can you identify the Kingdom that you pray for in the Lord's (or, Our Father) Prayer?" —Rev. 11:15.

Conversation Starters

The list of questions below, compiled from topics in the *Reasoning* book, shows the page number in the book where each answer is found:

Why do we grow old and die? (98)

What is the condition of the dead? (100)

Are there sound reasons for believing in God? (145)

Does God really care what happens to us humans? (147)

Is God a real person? (147)

Do all good people go to heaven? (162)

Must a person go to heaven to have a truly happy future? (163)

Why is it important to know and use God's personal name? (196)

Is Jesus Christ actually God? (212)

What will God's Kingdom accomplish? (227)

What is the purpose of human life? (243)

What can help to improve a marriage? (253)

Are all religions acceptable to God? (322)

How can a person know which religion is right? (328)

How powerful a figure is Satan in today's world? (364)

Why does God permit suffering? (393)

Why is there so much wickedness? (427)

Who rules this world—God or Satan? (436)

Suggestions for Presenting the *Require* Brochure

"No doubt you would agree that many people believe in God. All who do believe in him agree that God requires something from us. What people cannot agree on is, What does God require of us?" Then present the *Require* brochure, turn to lesson 1, and discuss it.

◆

"With so many problems in family life today, have you ever wondered what is the secret for achieving family happiness?" After a response, explain that in the Bible, God reveals the real secret of family happiness. Read Isaiah 48:17. Then turn to lesson 8 in the *Require* brochure, and point to some of the cited Bible verses that provide reliable guidance for each member of the family. Read the list of questions at the beginning of the lesson. Ask if the person would like to read the answers.

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"This brochure contains a well-rounded-out study course covering the basic teachings of the Bible. On each page, you will find answers to questions that have troubled people for centuries. For example, What is God's purpose for the earth?" Turn to lesson 5, and read the questions at the start of the lesson. Ask the householder which one interests him the most, and then read the corresponding paragraph(s), looking up appropriate scriptures. Explain that satisfying answers to the other questions can be found just as easily as this one. Suggest that you return again to discuss another question.

◆

"What do you think is the reason for all the violence in public schools? Does it result from a lack of parental training? Or could it be something else, such as the influence of the Devil?" Allow for a response. If the person says that it is because of the Devil's influence, read Revelation 12:9, 12. Point out the Devil's role in promoting turmoil in the world. Then open the *Require* brochure to lesson 4, and ask if the person ever wondered where the Devil came from. Proceed to read and discuss the first two paragraphs. If the person chooses "a lack of parental training" as the reason for violence in the schools, read 2 Timothy 3:1-3 and point out the traits that evidently contribute to this problem. Then open the *Require* brochure to lesson 8, read paragraph 5, and continue the discussion.

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"Do you think it is reasonable to expect that the Creator would give us the knowledge we need to build a successful family life?" After a response, introduce the *Require* brochure. Turn to lesson 8, and explain that it contains principles from the Bible for every member of the family. Offer to demonstrate how to use the brochure with the Bible to get the greatest benefit.

◆

"With all the challenges we face in modern-day life, do you feel that prayer can be of real help to us? [Allow for response.] Many say that prayer gives them inner strength. [Read Philippians 4:6, 7.] Even so, a person may feel that his prayers go unanswered. [Open the *Require* brochure to lesson 7.] This brochure explains how prayer can be of the most benefit to us."

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"We have been talking to our neighbors about why there are so many different religions in the world. Yet, there is only one Bible. In your opinion, why does this confusion of religions exist? [Allow for response. Open the *Require* brochure to lesson 13, and read the opening questions.] You will receive satisfying answers to those questions by reading this lesson."

◆

After placing the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines with a person, ask if you might read to him one short paragraph. If allowed to do so, open the *Require* brochure to lesson 5. Point out the questions listed at the start of the lesson, and ask him to listen for the answer to the first question as you read the opening paragraph. After reading the paragraph, ask the question and get his response. Offer the brochure, and if it is accepted, arrange to return to get his responses to the next two questions in the list.

Suggestions for Presenting the *Knowledge* Book

With the Bible in hand, begin by saying: "We are sharing a scripture with everyone on your street today. It states . . ." Read John 17:3, and then ask: "Did you notice what is promised if we have the right kind of knowledge? [Allow for response.] Where would a person find such knowledge?" After a response, show the *Knowledge* book, and say: "This book points to the knowledge that leads to everlasting life. It does so by answering the most common questions that people have about the Bible." Show the table of contents, and ask the person if he has ever wondered about any of those subjects.

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"Have you ever wondered if God is really concerned about the injustice and suffering that we see around us or even experience ourselves? [Allow for response.] The Bible assures us that God loves us and that he will help us through times of distress." Read portions of Psalm 72:12-17. Open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 8, and point out that it gives a comforting answer to a question that millions have asked, Why does God permit suffering? If possible, discuss some of the Scriptural thoughts covered in paragraphs 3 to 5, or do so on the return visit.

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"Most of us have lost loved ones in death. Have you ever wondered whether we will see them again? [Allow for response.] Jesus proved that our loved ones can be rescued from death. [Read John 11:11, 25, 44.] Even though this took place centuries ago, it demonstrates what God has promised to do for us." Open the *Knowledge* book to the picture on page 85, and read the caption. Then show the picture on page 86, and comment on it. Lay the groundwork for the next visit by asking: "Would you like to know the reason why humans grow old and die?" Return to discuss chapter 6.

◆

"Have you ever thought about why humans yearn for a longer life?" After a response, open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 6, and read paragraph 3. Reason on the cited scriptures. Referring to the two questions at the end of the paragraph, ask the person if he would like to see the answers for himself. If the response is favorable, discuss the next few paragraphs.

◆

"We are asking people if they believe this . . ." Read Genesis 1:1, and then ask: "Do you agree with that statement?" If the person agrees, then say: "I do too. However, do you think that if God created all things, he is also responsible for wickedness?" After acknowledging the person's response, read Ecclesiastes 7:29. Open the *Knowledge* book to chapter 8, and read paragraph 2. If he does not agree with Genesis 1:1, urge him to examine the evidence that the Creator exists.—See *Reasoning* book, pages 84-6.

◆

"Would you agree that with today's moral values changing so rapidly, we need a reliable guide in life? [Allow for response.] Although it is the oldest of books, the Bible gives practical counsel for modern living and happy family life." Then turn to chapter 2 in the *Knowledge* book, and read paragraph 10 and the first sentence of paragraph 11, including 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

◆

"Would you like to know what the future holds for us and for the earth? [Allow for response.] The Bible sums up the future in one word—Paradise! That is where God put the first human couple when he created them. Notice this description of what it must have been like." Open the *Knowledge* book to page 8, and read paragraph 9, under the subheading "Life in Paradise." Then discuss the points in paragraph 10, and read the cited scripture, Isaiah 55:10, 11. Offer to continue the discussion of what life in the restored Paradise will be like, covering paragraphs 11-16.

When making return visits on those with whom you placed the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines, you might say this:

"The last time I called, I was pleased to leave with you a copy of the *Watchtower* magazine. Perhaps you noticed that the full title of the journal is *The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom*. Today I would like to explain what this Kingdom is and what it can mean for you and your family." Then open the *Require* brochure to lesson 6, and read and discuss as much as the person has time for.

◆

"I visited you recently and left copies of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. These journals build respect for the Bible and its moral guidance. Because I feel it is essential for everyone to understand God's Word, I came back to show you something that will help you to do that." Introduce the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book, and offer a Bible study.

When featuring any of the older 192-page books, you might try this presentation:

"Much emphasis has been placed on the need for quality education. In your opinion, what kind of education should a person pursue to ensure the greatest happiness and success in life? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 9:10, 11.] This handbook [give the title of the book you are offering] is based on the Bible. It points to the only source of knowledge that can lead to everlasting life." Show a specific example in the book, and encourage the person to read it.

Other Publications

Suggested presentations for additional books and brochures can be found in the *Watch Tower Publications Index* under:

Presentations
List by Publication

If you have found an effective presentation that gets results in cultivating interest, by all means continue to use it! Simply adapt it to the literature offer for the current month.

The Direct Approach

To start a Bible study, try using one of these direct approaches:

"Did you know that in just a few minutes, you can find the answer to an important Bible question? For example, . . ." Then, pose a question that appears at the beginning of one of the lessons in the *Require* brochure and that you think would appeal to the individual.

"I stopped by to show you our free Bible study program. It takes about five minutes to demonstrate. Do you have five minutes?" If the answer is yes, use lesson 1 in the *Require* brochure to demonstrate the study, reading only one or two selected scriptures. Afterward, ask: "When would you have about 15 minutes so that we can cover the next lesson?"

"Many people have a Bible, but they do not realize that it holds the answers to the important questions we all have about our future. Using this study aid [the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book] for an hour or so a week, you can gain a basic understanding of the Bible in just a few months. I would be happy to show you how the program works."

"I'm calling to offer you a free home Bible course. If I may, I'd like to take just a few minutes to demonstrate how people in some 200 lands discuss the Bible at home as family groups. We can use any of these topics as a basis for discussion. [Show the table of contents in the *Knowledge* book.] Which one especially interests you?" Wait for the person to make a selection. Turn to the chapter that is chosen, and start the study in the first paragraph.

"I give Bible lessons free of charge and have openings in my schedule for additional students. This Bible study aid is what we use. [Show the *Knowledge* book.] The course lasts only a few months and provides answers to such questions as: Why does God permit suffering? Why do we grow old and die? What happens to our dead loved ones? And how can we draw close to God? May I demonstrate a lesson?"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1987 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that have on hand *Mankind's Search for God* may also offer it. **February:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*, *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, or any older 192-page book that the congregation has in stock. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Offer the *Require* brochure, with a view to starting Bible studies.
- All baptized publishers present at the Service Meeting the week of January 14 may obtain the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and the Identity Card for their children.
- Starting in February, and no later than March 3, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Finding Security in a Dangerous World."
- As announced at the 2001 district convention, the new book *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* will be made available beginning early in 2002. Starting January 1, 2002, literature requests for this book in English, Korean, and Spanish can be submitted through the congregations. Until it is available and shipments are made, it will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Additional languages will be announced later.
- Congregations should make convenient arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Thursday, March 28, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Although it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial observance, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from the occasion, allowing time to meet visitors and encourage newly interested ones. Consideration should be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.
- Researchers and others have contacted a number of brothers, seeking information about Jehovah's Witnesses and our organization. They have requested that survey forms be completed, supplying answers to questions related to our beliefs and teachings. If such individuals approach a congregation publisher, he should provide the name of the presiding overseer. The elders can handle such inquiries and make an appropriate response based on a letter addressed to all bodies of elders, dated April 25, 2001.
- When the presiding overseer receives the New York Corporation Statement each month, he should see that all acknowledgments of contributions for the Society Kingdom Hall Fund and for the worldwide work are read to the congregation with the next accounts report.
- *Awake!* in Chinese and Simplified Chinese is being changed from a semimonthly to a monthly edition.
- *Awake!* in Cibemba is being changed from a monthly to a quarterly edition.
- *The Watchtower* in Armenian is being changed from a semimonthly to a monthly edition.
- Beginning with the January 2002 issues, *The Watchtower* (semimonthly) and *Awake!* (monthly) will be available in both Papiamento (Curaçao) and Papiamento (Aruba).
- Beginning with the January 2002 issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in Mauritian Creole as a monthly edition.
- Beginning with the January 1, 2002, issue, a large-print edition of *The Watchtower* will be available in Croatian and in Norwegian.
- *Awake!* in Zulu is being changed from a semimonthly to a monthly edition.
- New Publications Available:

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I —Indonesian, Macedonian
Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I—Large Print —Chinese Simplified (Pinyin), French, Greek, Polish
New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures —Afrikaans, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified)

- New Videocassettes Available:

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived—On Videocassette, Volume 4 —American Sign Language

New Corporations Formed

The January 15, 2001, issue of *The Watchtower* reported on the organized way in which Jehovah's Witnesses are continuing to move forward with the Kingdom work in all the earth. It also explained how various legal entities are used as instruments to facilitate the spreading of the good news. Such entities or corporations are necessary to conform to local and national laws, as required by God's Word. (Rom. 13:1) Because of the diversity and scope of our work, the Governing Body has approved the formation of additional corporations to care for certain needs of Jehovah's Witnesses here in the United States. The new corporations are as follows:

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Religious Order of Jehovah's Witnesses

Kingdom Support Services, Inc.

These will operate along with Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania and Watchtower Bible and Tract Society of New York, Inc. Congregations and publishers may receive correspondence from any of these corporations. Your cooperation with these adjustments made by the Governing Body in fulfilling its assignment to care for all the Master's belongings will be greatly appreciated. —Matt. 24:45-47.

Parents —Train Your Children From Infancy

¹ "Train up a boy according to the way for him; even when he grows old he will not turn aside from it." (Prov. 22:6) Parents, if you do not want your children to "turn aside from" the way of the truth, when should such training begin? Early in life!

² When Paul said that Timothy's spiritual education was "from infancy," evidently he meant from babyhood. (2 Tim. 3: 14, 15) As a result, Timothy developed into an excellent spiritual man. (Phil. 2:19-22) Parents, you too must start "from infancy" to give your children the training they need to 'grow up with Jehovah.'—1 Sam. 2:21.

³ **Supply the Water They Need to Grow:** Just as saplings need a constant supply of water to grow into stately trees, children of all ages need to be saturated with the water of Bible truth to grow into mature servants of God. The primary way to teach children the truth and to help them gain an intimacy with Jehovah is by means of a regular, family Bible study. But parents, consider each child's attention span. For young children, likely frequent abbreviated sessions of instruction would be more effective than a few long ones.—Deut. 11:18, 19.

⁴ Never underestimate your children's potential to learn. Tell them stories about Bible characters. Let them draw pictures of Bible scenes or act out Bible events. Make good use of our videos and audiocassettes, including the Bible dramas. Adapt the family study to the ages and learning abilities of your children. Initial training will be elementary, in small amounts; but as a child grows older, his training should become more expansive and progressive. Make Bible instruction lively and varied. You want your children to "form a longing" for the Word, so make the study as tasty as you can.—1 Pet. 2:2.

⁵ **Involve Them in the Congregation:** Set progressive goals for your children so that they become fully involved in the congregation. What might be their first goal? The parents of two young children said: "Both started to receive training to sit quietly in the Kingdom Hall." Later, help children to comment at the meetings in their own words and to make it their goal to enroll in the Theocratic Ministry School. In the field service, good goals to be achieved would be to offer a tract at the door, to read a scripture, to give a magazine presentation, and to engage householders in meaningful conversations.

⁶ **Provide an Enthusiastic Example:** Do your children daily hear you speak about Jehovah and pray to him? Do they see you study his Word, attend meetings, share in the field ministry, and find delight in doing God's will? (Ps. 40:8) It is vital that they do and that you do these things together. A grown daughter said of her mother, who had reared six children to become faithful Witnesses: "What impressed us the most was Mother's own example—it spoke louder than words." A parent of four stated: "'Jehovah comes first' was not just a common phrase but the way we lived our lives."

⁷ Parents, start early to train your children, teaching them the truth from God's Word, setting progressive goals, and providing the best possible example. You will be happy you did!

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Jan. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Many people use images in their worship. Do you think that such objects have saving powers? [Allow for response.] Please note what the true God will do for us. [Read Revelation 21: 3, 4.] Only a God who is real can accomplish that. This magazine shows who he is and how we can benefit from putting our trust in him."

Awake!® Jan. 22

"We may take it for granted that we have a place to call home. But millions of refugees the world over wander helplessly, never finding the security they seek. *Awake!* examines why this problem exists as well as the Bible's promise that someday everyone will have a home to call his own."

THE WATCHTOWER Feb. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"There is much concern about pollution of the environment. But have you ever thought about pollution of the mind? [Allow for response.] The Bible emphasizes the importance of being clean both physically and spiritually. [Read 2 Corinthians 7:1.] I am sure you will find this information helpful and practical."

Awake!® Feb. 8

"No doubt you've seen that while marriages usually get off to a joyful start, many break up. I'd like to leave this issue of *Awake!* with you, as it discusses the Bible's view on how to make a marriage lasting and happy."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 2/02 Vol. 45, No. 2

The Happiest People on Earth

1 “Happy is the people whose God is Jehovah!” (Ps. 144:15) Those words describe Jehovah’s Witnesses as the happiest people on earth. There is no greater joy than that which comes from serving the only true and living God, Jehovah. Since he is “the happy God,” those who worship him reflect his delight. (1 Tim. 1:11) What are some aspects of our worship that contribute to our being so happy?

2 **Reasons for Being Happy:** Jesus assured us that happiness comes from being “conscious of [our] spiritual need.” (Matt. 5:3) Continually studying the Bible and attending all our Christian meetings satisfies that need. Learning the truth of God’s Word has set us free from religious falsehood and error. (John 8:32) The Scriptures have also taught us the best way of living. (Isa. 48:17) Because of that, we enjoy wholesome Christian fellowship within our happy association of brothers.—1 Thess. 2:19, 20; 1 Pet. 2:17.

3 We derive great contentment from obeying God’s high moral standards, for we know that this safeguards us and makes Jehovah happy. (Prov. 27:11) A newspaper reporter noted: “Despite all their strict standards, Jehovah’s Witnesses do not appear to be unhappy. To the contrary. The young as well as the older [ones among them] present an appearance of being unusually joyful and well balanced.” How can we help others to share our happy lot?

4 **Help Others Find Happiness:** The world is filled with unhappiness, and people generally have a gloomy outlook on the future. However, we have a bright outlook, knowing that one day all sadness will be a thing of the past. (Rev. 21:3, 4) Therefore, we zealously share in the ministry, looking for honesthearted ones with whom to share our hope and our beliefs about Jehovah.—Ezek. 9:4.

5 A pioneer sister said: “There is nothing more satisfying than helping people to get to know Jehovah and his truth.” Let us do all we can to encourage many more to accept home Bible studies. Serving Jehovah and giving of ourselves to help others serve him produces the greatest happiness.—Acts 20:35.

Impact of Videos That Give a Witness

1 “Our son has been watching the video since before he could walk. He watches it over and over again. How wonderful it is to have tools that instill love of Jehovah in our children!” Which video was this Christian parent describing? The one entitled *Noah—He Walked With God.* A non-Witness mother whose son had seen the *Noah* video at someone else’s house sent the branch office a $90 donation and asked if we have any other videos for children. The videos produced by Jehovah’s organization are having a strong impact on young and old alike.

2 **In the Family:** After a Witness family watched *Jehovah’s Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault,* the mother related: “I have pondered all day on how Jehovah enabled ordinary people to endure extraordinary things! Thinking about that has reminded me of how relatively insignificant my own problems are. Viewing this video with our children has helped them to see more clearly the need to rely on Jehovah. By discussing it with them afterward, we have helped our daughters to be better equipped to handle whatever pressures and persecutions may come their way.”

3 **At School:** As part of a report, a teenage Witness was able to show a portion of the *Stand Firm* video to his class. Previously, the teacher said that she did not like the Witnesses. After watching the video, she stated: “This has totally changed the way I look at Jehovah’s Witnesses. I promise that the next time they come to my door, I will listen to them and start studying the Bible with them!” What changed her impression of us? She said that it was our “true love and loyalty.”

4 **In the Ministry:** A sister met a woman who hesitated to accept literature, although she had questions about us and our beliefs. The sister returned with the video *Jehovah’s Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name* and played it for the woman and her husband. Both were greatly impressed and agreed to study the Bible. As a result of the fine witness given to them, they began conforming their lives to God’s will.

5 Are you using our videos to their full potential?

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting February 11

Song 6

12 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to read or review Genesis 6:1 to 9:19 and to watch the video *Noah—He Walked With God* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of February 25.

20 min: "Preach the Word of God Fully."* (Paragraphs 1-13) To be handled by the presiding overseer. An enthusiastic discussion of what we desire to accomplish in March and beyond. Everyone should use the calendar provided in the insert to plan a practical schedule for sharing as much as possible in the ministry during March. Encourage all who can to auxiliary pioneer that month. When discussing paragraphs 7-8, ask for expressions about the blessings enjoyed by those who pioneered last Memorial season. Announce that applications for auxiliary pioneering will be available after this meeting.

13 min: "What to Say About the Magazines." Ask publishers how this feature in *Our Kingdom Ministry* has helped them to be better prepared to tie in articles with troublesome events in these critical times. What experiences have some had in bringing comfort to people and helping them to find Bible-based answers to disturbing questions? In two brief demonstrations, show how to present the February 15 *Watchtower* and then the February 22 *Awake!*

Song 49 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 18

Song 95

8 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

12 min: "The Happiest People on Earth."* Briefly include "Steps Toward Happiness," on page 6 in the October 15, 1997, *Watchtower.*

25 min: "Preach the Word of God Fully."* (Paragraphs 14-23) To be handled by the service overseer. Review special plans being made locally for increased activity in March. Outline entire schedule of meetings for field service planned for the month. Focus on reactivating those who have become inactive and assisting children and Bible students to qualify as unbaptized publishers. Announce the names of those who have signed up to auxiliary pioneer in March, and encourage more to give prayerful thought to joining them.

Song 143 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 25

Song 174

15 min: Local announcements. Demonstrate two brief magazine presentations—one using the March 1 *Watchtower* and the other using the March 8 *Awake!* Have a youth give one of them. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for February.

15 min: "Impact of Videos That Give a Witness." Audience discussion. Thus far, we have reviewed eight of our videos on the Service Meeting program. After briefly discussing the examples given in the article, ask publishers to relate what successes they have had in showing the videos to others.

15 min: "Everyone Can Learn From *Noah—He Walked With God.*" Get right into a discussion of the *Noah* video with the audience, using only the questions that are provided in the box on this page. In April we will review the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?*

Song 215 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 4

Song 207

5 min: Local announcements.

12 min: Local needs.

12 min: Use the *Knowledge* Book to Start Studies. During March we wish to put forth a special effort to start home Bible studies. Briefly relate the experience in the August 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4, paragraph 8. If someone has recently started a study in the *Knowledge* book, reenact how this was accomplished. Remind everyone of the "Suggestions for Presenting the *Knowledge* Book," in the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Using the book, demonstrate one of the suggestions on page 6 of the insert under "The Direct Approach."

16 min: "Why Keep On Preaching?"* Conclude with interviews of one or two publishers who have kept on preaching over a period of many years. Have them share their feelings as to why they have persisted in this work and how it has benefited them.

Song 223 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

Everyone Can Learn From *Noah—He Walked With God*

Read or review Genesis 6:1 to 9:19. Then watch the *Noah* video, and think of how you would answer these questions: **(1)** What was the world like in Noah's day, and how did it get that way? **(2)** What made Noah so special, what task did God give him to do, and why? **(3)** Where was the ark probably built, how long did it take, and how large was it? **(4)** Besides building the ark, what else did Noah and his family have to do? **(5)** What do you think it was like in the ark once the door was shut? **(6)** How would you have felt after surviving the Flood? **(7)** What reminder of the Flood do we occasionally see, and what does it mean? **(8)** What has the Bible account of Noah taught you about yourself, your family, and the work God has assigned us to do? **(9)** What questions do you want to ask Noah and his family when you meet them in Paradise? **(10)** How do you plan to use the *Noah* video now?

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"Preach the Word of God Fully"

¹ When you sincerely appreciate receiving something good, do you not show it by your attitude and actions? Of course you do! Regarding the goodness and loving-kindness that Jehovah extends to mankind, notice how the apostle Paul reacted. He exclaimed: "Thanks be to God for his indescribable free gift"! What does that "free gift" include? All "the surpassing undeserved kindness of God" that has been shown to us, the greatest manifestation of which was the gift of his own Son as a ransom for our sins.—2 Cor. 9:14, 15; John 3:16.

² Was Paul's expression of thanks simply words on his part? By no means! In many ways he showed his deep appreciation. He was very much concerned about the spiritual welfare of his fellow Christians and wanted to do what he could to help them benefit to the full from God's loving-kindness. Concerning such ones, Paul said: "Having a tender affection for you, we were well pleased to impart to you, not only the good news of God, but also our own souls, because you became beloved to us." (1 Thess. 2:8) In addition to helping those who were already part of the congregation to secure their salvation, Paul tirelessly preached the good news, traveling thousands of miles on land and sea to find those "who were rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) Paul's deep appreciation for all that Jehovah had done for him moved him "to preach the word of God fully."—Col. 1:25.

³ Does not our appreciation for all that Jehovah has done for us move us to offer spiritual assistance to those who need help in our congregation? (Gal. 6:10) And are we not moved to have as full a share as possible in preaching the good news of the Kingdom throughout our territory?—Matt. 24:14.

⁴ **An Opportunity to Show Appreciation:** Each year the Memorial of Christ's death gives us a special opportunity to show appreciation for what Jehovah and Jesus have done for us. This is not just another meeting or merely a memorial of an event. Jesus said: "Keep doing this in remembrance of *me.*" (Luke 22:19) The Memorial of Christ's death is an occasion to call to mind the kind of person Jesus is. It is a time to recognize that he is alive and active today, with the glory and kingship that was given him for his faithful life course and sacrifice. This observance is also an opportunity to show our subjection to Christ's headship as he directs the affairs and activities of the Christian congregation. (Col. 1:17-20) All of God's people should respectfully be on hand for the Memorial of Christ's death. This year it will be held after sundown on Thursday, March 28, 2002.

⁵ With the diligent effort put forth prior to the observance of the Memorial last year, we had an all-time peak attendance of 2,163,602 in the United States branch. What will be the attendance this year? Much will depend on our "working hard and exerting ourselves," helping as many as possible to attend.—1 Tim. 4:10.

⁶ In addition to attending the Lord's Evening Meal, we may be able to increase our field service activity. No doubt, tens of thousands of brothers and sisters will auxiliary pioneer one or more months. Each year for the past five years, we have had an average of 212,142 auxiliary pioneers during the Memorial season, March through May. Can you arrange your affairs to enjoy the privilege of auxiliary pioneering this year? It would be a fine way to show your sincere appreciation for God's loving provision of Christ's sacrifice. You can be assured of Jehovah's blessing, as the following experiences show.

⁷ A sister who has a full-time secular job wrote about her experience of auxiliary pioneering last March: "The February 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry* encouraged everyone whose circumstances permitted to auxiliary pioneer during the Memorial season. Since March had five Saturdays, this fitted well with my schedule. So I decided to turn in my application." As she began the month, she set a goal for herself of

trying to start a home Bible study. Did she succeed? Yes, in her 52nd hour of witnessing that month! Her conclusion? "There are wonderful blessings when we make the extra effort."

8 What are the benefits to a family that pioneers together? A family of four that did so last April found it to be a month that will always be remembered. The mother said: "What a positive outlook we had for each day, since we were united in the ministry! Discussions on our daily activities in the service made dinnertime very enjoyable." The son said: "I enjoyed working in the field service with Dad during the week, when he is normally working secularly." The father added: "As the family head, I felt satisfaction in knowing that we were working together in the most important activity of our time." Can your family pioneer together? Why not have a family discussion and see if it is possible for your whole household to auxiliary pioneer during this Memorial season?

9 **Can We Make March Our Best Month Ever?** Early in 2000, *Our Kingdom Ministry* posed the question: "Can We Make April 2000 Our Best Month Ever?" What was the response? Several new peaks were reached. There was an all-time one-month peak of 153,774 auxiliary pioneers. In addition, we had new peaks in hours, magazine placements, and return visits. Do you recall the enthusiasm that was generated in your congregation by the flurry of spiritual activity during that special month? Can we equal or even surpass those accomplishments this year? With concerted effort by all, **March 2002** can become "Our Best Month Ever." Why March?

10 There are two reasons why March should be a special month of activity. First, the Memorial will be held toward the end of March, giving us ample opportunity early in the month to invite as many as possible to attend. Second, this year March has five full weekends, making it easier to auxiliary pioneer for those who work secularly or who attend school. Why not sit down now and plan a workable schedule, using the calendar provided in this insert? Auxiliary pioneering may be easier than you think. For example, by scheduling 8 *hours* of field service each of the five weekends, you would need to schedule only 10 additional hours during the rest of the month to reach the required 50 hours.

11 What can the elders do to help all in the congregation to "preach the word of God fully"? Build enthusiasm through meeting parts and personal conversations. Congregation Book Study overseers and their assistants can take the initiative to speak with each one assigned to their group and offer personal assistance. A few kind words of encouragement or some practical suggestions may be just what is needed. (Prov. 25:11) Many will see that with some slight adjustments in their schedule, they can enjoy the privilege of serving as auxiliary pioneers. In a number of congregations, most, if not all, of the elders and ministerial servants and their wives set a fine example by auxiliary pioneering together during the Memorial season. This has encouraged scores of publishers to join them. Because of physical limitations or other circumstances, some publishers may not be in a position to pioneer, but they can be encouraged to demonstrate their appreciation by doing as much as they can in the ministry along with the rest of the congregation.

12 Success depends on careful planning on the part of the elders. Meetings for field service should be scheduled at convenient times throughout the week. If possible, the service overseer will assign in advance qualified brothers to conduct all meetings for service. Good preparation will be required so that these meetings do not exceed 10 to 15 minutes, including organizing groups, assigning territory, and saying a prayer. (See the Question Box in the September 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*) A schedule of activity for the month should be clearly explained to the congregation and posted on the information board.

13 Adequate territory should be made available. The service overseer should meet with the brother handling territories to make arrangements for working the ones

not covered frequently. Emphasis should be put on working not-at-homes, witnessing on the streets and from store to store, and doing evening witnessing. Where appropriate, some publishers may be helped to do telephone witnessing.

14 **Help Them to Serve Again:** Are any in your congregation's territory no longer active in preaching the good news? Such ones are still part of the congregation and are in need of help. (Ps. 119:176) Since the end of this old world is so close and the new world is just ahead, we have good reason to put forth every effort to assist those who have become inactive. (Rom. 13:11, 12) Over the past five years, more than 26,500 people each year have responded to help and been reactivated. What can we do to help many more rekindle the love and confidence they had at the start?—Heb. 3:12-14.

15 The body of elders will want to discuss how they can help those who have become inactive during the past few years. (Matt. 18:12-14) The secretary should check the Congregation's Publisher Record cards and make a note of all those who have become inactive. A special effort should be made through the shepherding arrangement to provide assistance. An elder might want to call on a certain publisher because of previous acquaintance and association with that one, or other publishers may be asked to help. Maybe they studied with the one who is now inactive and would welcome the opportunity to be of special assistance in this time of need. Hopefully, many of those who became inactive will be moved to start preaching the word of God again. If they qualify, there is no better time for them to start than during the Memorial season!—See the Question Box in the November 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry* for further details.

16 **Do Others Qualify to Preach?** Jehovah continues to bless his people by bringing in "the desirable things of all the nations." (Hag. 2:7) Each year thousands qualify as unbaptized publishers. Who are they? Children of Jehovah's Witnesses as well as progressive Bible students. How do we know if they qualify to be publishers of the good news?

17 **Children of Jehovah's Witnesses:** Many children have accompanied their parents from house to house for years, although they are not yet serving as unbaptized publishers. March may be a good time to get them started. How do you know if your child is qualified? Page 100 in *Organized to Accomplish Our Ministry* says that it is "when a child is exemplary in his conduct and is able to make a personal expression of his faith by speaking to others about the good news, being moved from the heart to do so." If you think that your child qualifies, speak with one of the elders on the Congregation Service Committee.

18 **Qualified Bible Students:** After a Bible student has taken in knowledge and attended meetings for a while, he may want to become a Kingdom publisher. If you are conducting the study with such a student, consider these questions: Is he making progress, consistent with his age and ability? Has he begun to share his faith informally with others? Is he putting on "the new personality"? (Col. 3:10) Does he meet the qualifications for unbaptized publishers, outlined on pages 97-9 in the *Our Ministry* book? If so, you should contact the Congregation Service Committee so that arrangements can be made for two elders to meet with you and the student. If he qualifies, the two elders will inform him that he can begin sharing in the public ministry.

19 **What About April and May?** These will also be special months for increased activity in the field ministry. Many who auxiliary pioneer in March may be able to do so again in April and/or May. During April and May, we will give priority to featuring the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines in the ministry. What beneficial effects they have had on the lives of those who read them! These magazines have played a large role in achieving the marvelous increase that has been experienced worldwide. A special effort will be put forth during April and May to offer the magazines to as many people as possible. Plan now to have a full share.

20 With the increased preaching activity planned, do you need to increase the number of magazines you obtain through the congregation? Throughout the service year, we feature *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* each Saturday, our designated Magazine Day. However, since many will be sharing in the auxiliary pioneer service and all of us will be featuring the magazines for two full months, it may be necessary to increase your magazine order with the congregation. If so, please inform the magazine servant in your congregation immediately. At the same time, the literature servant should be sure that a good supply of the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* is on hand for all to use.

21 Many have expressed appreciation for the feature in *Our Kingdom Ministry* entitled "What to Say About the Magazines." Have you taken advantage of this provision by learning the sample magazine presentations? Why not use a portion of your family Bible study each week to practice these presentations?

22 **Make the Most of This Memorial Season:** Like the apostle Paul, let us show Jehovah how much we appreciate "his indescribable free gift" by our full participation in the spiritual activities planned for this Memorial season. These include (1) attending the most important occasion of the year, the observance of the Lord's Evening Meal on Thursday, March 28, 2002; (2) helping those who have become inactive to rekindle "the love [they] had at first" (Rev. 2:4; Rom. 12:11); (3) assisting our children and any Bible students who qualify to become unbaptized publishers; and (4) being involved in the evangelizing work as fully as possible, even auxiliary pioneering in March and beyond.—2 Tim. 4:5.

23 It is our earnest prayer that all of us will have a full share in preaching the good news of the Kingdom this Memorial season, thus showing the depth of our appreciation for all that Jehovah has done for us.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Personal Field Service Schedule for March 2002					1	2 **Magazine Day**
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 **Magazine Day**
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 **Magazine Day**
17	18	19	20	21	22	23 **Magazine Day**
24	25	26	27	28 **MEMORIAL** *AFTER SUNDOWN*	29	30 **Magazine Day**
31	**Can you schedule a total of 50 hours to auxiliary pioneer in March?**					

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*, *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, or any older 192-page book that the congregation has in stock. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Publishers should inform householders that they may contribute to the worldwide work if they so desire. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies.

■ When working unassigned territory, publishers may offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. Any other publication may be offered if the householder already has these two publications. All should carry a variety of tracts for not-at-homes or individuals who do not accept literature. Efforts should be made to follow up interest, especially where unassigned territories are accessible to nearby congregations.

■ On Saturday, May 11, 2002, the branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office within 30 days after reaching 18 years of age. A male noncitizen under the age of 26 who takes up residency in the United States must also register with Selective Service within 30 days of becoming a resident. All of those required to do so should comply with this law, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. From the time he registers until the year he turns 26, a brother must notify Selective Service of any change of address within ten days of the change. Elders should be aware of young brothers nearing the age of 18 and new alien residents between the ages of 18 and 26 and remind them of their duty to register with the Selective Service System.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review the annual S-201 letters. See also paragraphs 12-20 of the August 1986 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

■ The secretary should see that the Regional Building Committee is kept up-to-date on the status of all baptized publishers who have submitted Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire (S-82) forms. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, such as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or an elder, new forms should be filled out promptly and submitted. If a volunteer's mailing address or telephone number changes or if he is no longer in good standing in the congregation, the elders should immediately inform the Regional Building Committee by letter.

■ Beware of fraudulent schemes that have been circulating on the Internet and in the mail to solicit money for our brothers under the guise of assisting victims of disasters. Whenever circumstances require forming a relief committee to provide material assistance for Jehovah's Witnesses, responsible brothers will be notified. Donations for such needs should be sent to Watch Tower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ The special public talk for the 2002 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 14. The subject of the talk will be "Keep Close in Mind the 'Fear-Inspiring Day'!" An outline will be provided. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 14, 2002.

■ New Publications Available:

Apply Yourself to Reading and Writing —Albanian

Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education —English, Korean, Spanish

Does God Really Care About Us? —Indonesian

Elementary Bible Teachings —Haitian Creole, Tongan

Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Wayuunaiki

Holy Bible (with *New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures*) —Russian

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I —Swahili

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II —Albanian, Arabic, Cebuano, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Dutch, Finnish, Georgian, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Iloko, Indonesian, Japanese, Polish, Romanian, Serbian, Tagalog, Ukrainian, Vietnamese

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II—Large Print —English

Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe? —Cambodian, Cebuano, Estonian, Iloko, Papiamento, Romanian, Tagalog

Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Hebrew

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Georgian, Luganda, Sango

Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Sindhi

Mankind's Search for God —Macedonian, Ukrainian

New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (Deluxe pocket edition; available with black or maroon leather cover) —Chinese (Simplified)

Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Bulgarian, Samoan

The Secret of Family Happiness —Ewe, Tongan

What Does God Require of Us? —Afrikaans, Mauritian Creole, Punjabi (Nastaliq script)

What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16) —Sango

When Someone You Love Dies —Yoruba

Would You Like to Know More About the Bible? (Tract No. 26) —Arabic, French

You Can Be God's Friend! —Hausa

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Families—Make Daily Bible Reading Your Way of Life! (Drama, single cassette) —Portuguese

Hosea through *Malachi* (set of three cassettes) —Finnish

Marked for Survival (Drama, single cassette) —Dutch, German, Portuguese

The First of Kings (set of two cassettes) —Dutch

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived—On Audiocassette (eight cassettes in an album) —Swedish

Warning Examples for Our Day—On Audiocassette (Drama, single cassette) —Spanish

■ New Videocassettes Available:

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived—On Videocassette, Volume 5 —American Sign Language

What Does God Require of Us?—On Videocassette —Russian Sign Language

Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends? —Albanian, German, Italian, Spanish

Why Keep On Preaching?

[1] Has the Kingdom-preaching work been carried on in your community for a long time? (Matt. 24:14) If so, you may feel that the congregation's territory has been adequately covered. Now when you preach, perhaps most people you meet seem apathetic toward the Kingdom message. Even so, note what is acknowledged about Jesus' true disciples on page 141 of the *Isaiah's Prophecy II* book: "In some places, the results of their ministry may seem insignificant when compared with the amount of work and effort expended. Still, they endure." But why keep on preaching?

[2] **Remember Jeremiah:** Our enduring faithfully in the preaching work should not depend on whether people listen to us or not. Jeremiah preached for 40 years in the same territory even though very few listened to him and many were opposed to his message. Why did Jeremiah persevere? Because he was doing a work that God commanded him to do and his knowledge of what was going to happen in the future compelled him to keep speaking out.—Jer. 1:17; 20:9.

[3] Our situation is similar. Jesus has "ordered us to preach to the people and to give a thorough witness that this is the One decreed by God to be judge of the living and the dead." (Acts 10:42) The message that we bear is a matter of life and death to those who hear it. People will be judged on the basis of their response to the good news. That being so, our responsibility is to do exactly as we have been commanded to do. Even when people refuse to listen, this gives us the opportunity to show the depth of our love for them and of our devotion to Jehovah by persisting in doing what we must. But there is more.

[4] **We Are Benefiting:** Doing God's will, regardless of the response in the territory, gives us inner peace, satisfaction, and happiness, which cannot be found in any other way. (Ps. 40:8) Our lives take on real meaning and purpose. The more we share in the ministry, the more our hearts and minds are focused on the hope and joy of living in God's new world. Dwelling on these Scriptural promises enhances our spirituality and strengthens our relationship with Jehovah.

[5] Even if we do not see immediate results in our preaching activity, a seed of truth may have been planted in the heart of an individual that will sprout in Jehovah's due time. (John 6:44; 1 Cor. 3:6) None of us know how many more will yet come to learn of the Kingdom through the efforts of Jehovah's people, either locally or worldwide.

[6] As never before, we should heed Jesus' instruction: "Keep looking, keep awake, for you do not know when the appointed time is. But what I say to you I say to all, Keep on the watch." (Mark 13:33, 37) So, then, may all of us keep on declaring the good news of the Kingdom, making Jehovah's heart rejoice as we share in sanctifying his great and holy name.

November Service Report

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**150**	**119.1**	**104.9**	**53.6**	**5.2**
Pios.	**90,542**	**65.2**	**46.9**	**21.1**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**21,558**	**49.0**	**38.4**	**13.4**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**854,278**	**9.3**	**8.5**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**966,528**		Baptized: **2,123**		

What to Say About the Magazines

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THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Feb. 15**

"Have you ever wondered how best to guide your life and make key decisions? [Allow for response.] Some of the best guidance, such as the Golden Rule, is found in the Bible. [Read Matthew 7:12.] What other godly principles can directly benefit us? You will find the answer in this magazine."

Awake! Feb. 22

"You may have noted that many workplaces have become more dangerous. This magazine has fine suggestions on how they can be made safer. It also shows that our well-being is linked to whether we have a balanced view of secular work. Please read it."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Mar. 1**

"With all that is happening today, most of us are wondering what the future holds. In a famous prayer, Jesus Christ revealed the reason why we can look to the future with confidence. [Read Matthew 6:9, 10.] Mankind is repeating mistakes that were made a long time ago. But in those days, those who served God had a happy future. This magazine shows how we can too."

Awake! Mar. 8

"The Bible emphasizes the importance of sound education. [Read Proverbs 2:10, 11.] Most of us realize how vital it is for children to have qualified teachers. *Awake!* highlights the crucial role of teachers, how we should appreciate their sacrifices, and what parents can do to help them in their difficult challenge."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 3/02 Vol. 45, No. 3

Joyfully United With Jehovah and His Son

The Most Important Event of the Year Is to Be Observed on March 28

[1] By observing the Lord's Evening Meal after sundown on March 28, 2002, we display our joyful unity with Jehovah God and Jesus Christ. On that very special occasion, the remnant of anointed Christians will enjoy the special "sharing" that they have with other Kingdom heirs, with the Father, and with his Son. (1 John 1:3; Eph. 1:11, 12) Millions of the "other sheep" will reflect on their wonderful privilege to be united with Jehovah and his Son, being of one heart and mind with them in accomplishing God's work! —John 10:16.

[2] **Working Together in a Close Relationship:** Jehovah and Jesus have always been joyfully united. They enjoyed close association for aeons before the creation of man. (Mic. 5:2) A deep bond of tender affection thus developed between the two of them. As wisdom personified, this firstborn Son in his prehuman existence could say: "I came to be the one [Jehovah] was specially fond of day by day, I being glad before him all the time." (Prov. 8:30) Spending countless ages in intimate association with the Source of love had a profound effect on God's Son!—1 John 4:8.

[3] With mankind's need of redemption in mind, Jehovah chose his only-begotten Son, who was especially fond of humans, to provide the ransom sacrifice, which offers our only hope. (Prov. 8:31) Just as Jehovah and his Son are united in carrying out one purpose, we remain united with them and with one another in bonds of strong love, joyfully doing God's will.

[4] **Showing Our Heartfelt Appreciation:** By being present at the Memorial and listening carefully and respectfully, we can demonstrate our genuine appreciation for both Jehovah's love and his Son's sacrifice for us. Highlighted will be Jesus' loving example, his faithfulness to death in providing the ransom, and his rulership as King of God's established Kingdom, as well as the blessings that the Kingdom will bring to mankind. We will also be reminded of the need to manifest our faith continually, zealously working in harmony with Jehovah's will as "fellow workers in the truth."—3 John 8; Jas. 2:17.

[5] **Helping Others to Share With Us:** The body of elders should make a special effort to encourage all inactive Witnesses in the territory to attend the Memorial of Christ's death. (Matt. 18:12, 13) Make a list of those to be called on so that none are overlooked and all are personally invited.

[6] Do you know of others who might come to the Memorial? Take the initiative to build up their appreciation for this occasion. Warmly invite them, and make them feel wanted. Let us do our utmost to invite to this most important event of the year all our Bible students and other interested people, as well as family members and acquaintances. The benefits of the ransom remain available to all who learn "the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:8) Those exercising faith in Christ's sacrifice can gain the firm hope of everlasting life.—John 3:16.

[7] Never underestimate the effect that the Memorial can have on sincere ones. Two years ago in the island country of Papua New Guinea, 11 interested persons traveled in a small boat for 17 hours through rough seas in order to be present. Why? They said: "We wanted to celebrate Christ's Memorial with fellow worshipers of Jehovah; so the trip was all worth it." Think of the zeal shown by those interested ones and of their appreciation for being joyfully united with Jehovah, his Son, and the Christian brotherhood!

[8] Offer a Bible study to all interested ones. Encourage them to attend congregation meetings regularly and to share with others the truths they are learning. Help them to 'walk in the light' and to 'practice the truth' by applying Bible principles in their life. (1 John 1:6, 7) Assist them to develop a close relationship with Jehovah and to continue growing in appreciation for the privilege of unitedly doing his will.

[9] What a wonderful privilege it is to be joyfully united "in one spirit, with one soul striving side by side for the faith of the good news"! (Phil. 1: 27, 28) Let us look forward to our sweet fellowship together at the Memorial on March 28, ever thankful to Jehovah and his Son!—Luke 22:19.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting March 11

Song 2

13 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the March 15 *Watchtower* and the March 22 *Awake!* In each case, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper, "I'm not interested." —See *Reasoning* book, page 16.

12 min: Maintaining Our Christian Neutrality. Talk by a capable elder. Displays of patriotism have become more common at school, in the workplace, and around the neighborhood. Many who promote this do so as their way of coping with anxiety and grief over national tragedies. Even though we too are pained by what we see in the world, we understand the bigger issue of universal sovereignty and are comforted by the Kingdom message. When tactfully explaining to others why we do not join in nationalistic activities, we should also share the comfort and hope we have found in God's Word. The brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses and Education,* pages 20-4, under the subheading "The Flag Salute," explains the reason why we do not participate in patriotic ceremonies. Cover the highlights, and encourage parents to review this information carefully with their children. Relate the experiences found on page 20 in the brochure and on page 31 in the January 8, 1996, *Awake!* Emphasize the need to give exclusive devotion to Jehovah, while respecting governmental authority.

20 min: "Be Rich in Fine Works."* To be handled by the service overseer. Urge all to share fully in the ministry in preparation for the Memorial observance on March 28. Discuss how the printed invitations can be used to the best advantage. Invite publishers to tell how they were able to get their relatives, neighbors, Bible students, and other interested ones to attend the Memorial last year and what joy that brought. Encourage all who can to auxiliary pioneer in April and to obtain an application after the meeting.

Song 82 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 18

Song 7

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Discuss "Memorial Reminders." Encourage all to follow the Memorial Bible reading scheduled for March 23-28, as outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily —2002.*

15 min: "Joyfully United With Jehovah and His Son." A Scripturally motivating talk by an elder. Encourage everyone to put forth extra effort between now and March 28 to invite as many people as possible to attend the Memorial along with us.

20 min: How Is the *Yearbook* Benefiting You? Talk and audience discussion. First, highlight the key points in "A Letter From the Governing Body," on pages 3-5. Then, ask the audience to relate reports and experiences in the *Yearbook* that they found to be especially encouraging and faith-strengthening. Encourage all to complete their reading of the *Yearbook* and to use it to familiarize Bible students with Jehovah's organization.

Song 45 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 25

Song 12

14 min: Local announcements. Explain that it is not too late to submit an application to auxiliary pioneer in April. Using the suggestions on page 8, have an elder demonstrate how to present the April 1 *Watchtower* and a youth show how to present the April 8 *Awake!* After each demonstration, highlight some good aspects of the presentation.

15 min: Local needs.

16 min: Use the *Reasoning* Book to Give Encouragement. Audience discussion. Everyone needs loving encouragement from time to time. Therefore, we should all feel a need to "speak consolingly" to others, including the distressed ones we meet in the ministry. (1 Thess. 5:14) Using the *Reasoning* book, invite audience to mention what Scriptural encouragement they might share with someone experiencing one of the trials outlined on pages 117-21. Suggest that each one try to encourage someone whenever the need arises. —Gal. 6:10.

Song 131 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 1

Song 27

7 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for March.

18 min: "'Gifts in Men' Eagerly Shepherd God's Flock." A talk by an elder. Discuss scriptures cited. Show how positive things can and do result from shepherding the inactive and helping the infirm to do what they can. Loving shepherds show appreciation for all their heartfelt efforts to remain active in Jehovah's service.

20 min: "Increase Your Joy in Preaching."* When discussing paragraph 5, ask for practical suggestions on how to accomplish the most good in the local territory. Demonstrate one or two examples of how we might take the initiative to approach someone to give a brief witness. Encourage everyone to create opportunities to witness this week.

Song 15 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**132**	**122.7**	**109.1**	**57.4**	**5.3**
Pios.	**89,808**	**64.5**	**46.3**	**21.2**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**21,119**	**49.0**	**37.6**	**13.4**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**857,067**	**9.4**	**8.7**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**968,126**		Baptized: **1,713**		

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“Be Rich in Fine Works”

1 During the final years of his zealous ministry, the apostle Paul worked closely with Timothy and Titus. To each of them, he wrote similar words of encouragement. He told Titus that “those who have believed God” ought to “keep their minds on maintaining fine works.” (Titus 3:8) He told Timothy that those who rest their hope on God should “be rich in fine works.” (1 Tim. 6:17, 18) This is excellent advice for all of us! But what will motivate us to perform fine works in our lives? And what specific works might we perform in the days ahead?

2 The motivation for being rich in right works springs from our belief in and love for Jehovah and from the wonderful hope that he has given us. (1 Tim. 6:19; Titus 2: 11) Especially during this time of the year, we are reminded that Jehovah sent his Son to the earth so that Jesus could vindicate his Father and provide the way to life for all deserving humans. (Matt. 20:28; John 3:16) This will be made very clear at the Memorial observance of Christ’s death on March 28. In response to the hope we have of gaining life everlasting, are we not motivated to do all we can to “be rich in fine works”? Of course we are! What works might we perform now?

3 **Fine Works to Do in March and Beyond:** Certainly, we will attend the Memorial—the most important event of the year for Jehovah’s Witnesses worldwide. (Luke 22:19) But we want to share the joy of that occasion with as many as possible. Look at the service report in the *2002 Yearbook,* and you will see that last year in many lands around the earth, the Memorial attendance was three, four, five, or more times the number of publishers. Surely it took diligent effort on the part of all in the congregations to make an extensive distribution of Memorial invitations throughout their territory. Therefore, we want to spend as much time as we can between now and March 28 inviting people to the Memorial, helping them learn about the hope of salvation.

4 By the time April arrives, we may begin to enjoy extra daylight hours and more favorable weather. How can we put these advantages to good use in being “rich in fine works”? By continuing to have an enthusiastic share in the work of preaching the good news, being “zealous for fine works.” (Titus 2:14; Matt. 24:14) If you were not able to auxiliary pioneer in March, can you do so in April and/or May? If you are pioneering in March, can you continue?

5 Some who work secularly find that they can spend an hour or so in service on the way to work, doing street witnessing or calling on people who work at businesses that are open early in the morning. Others schedule part of their lunch hour to witness. Some have found it possible to conduct a Bible study during that period with a fellow worker. Many sisters who are housewives have been able to set aside time for the field ministry while their children are in school. By getting up a little earlier some days to care for their domestic chores, they have more time during the day for the preaching and teaching work.—Eph. 5: 15, 16.

6 Even if you are not in a position to auxiliary pioneer, it may be that you can work out a personal schedule to have a greater share in the ministry, doing all you can “to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be liberal, ready to share” the truth with others.—1 Tim. 6:18.

7 **Remember the Fine Work of Disciple Making:** Each year there are interested ones who come to the Memorial. Would it be possible for some in the congregation to give attention to those who attend but who are not now studying? Could return visits be made on them with a view to helping them make spiritual progress? It may be that some of these Memorial attenders are relatives of Witnesses. Others may be individuals who studied in the past and who only need some encouragement to resume studying and to attend meetings on a

regular basis. What joy it would bring us to see them become active servants of Jehovah along with us!

8 With an increased share in the ministry during March and beyond, we are very likely going to find more interested people on whom to call back. Try to leave them with a question. Then promise to share the answer on the next call. When we do this, the way will be paved for a return visit. The sooner we can make the return visit, the better. If we have not been able to start a study on the initial call, we want to try to start one on the very next visit if at all possible.

9 When we engage in street witnessing, we should be conscious of trying to start conversations with people. Many publishers have been given names, addresses, and telephone numbers by interested people whom they have met while doing street work. If the individual contacted does not live in your territory, obtain the Please Follow Up (S-43) form at the Kingdom Hall, fill it out, and give it to the congregation secretary, who will pass it on to the congregation in whose territory the person lives. If the secretary is not able to do so, he will forward it to the branch office for handling. In this way, the interest can be cultivated.

10 If a telephone number is obtained but not an address, then make a return visit by phoning the individual. Prepare ahead of time what you want to discuss. Have your *Reasoning* book handy for quick reference. Some are having fine success studying with individuals over the telephone, including those whom they have had a hard time finding at home. A sister started asking for telephone numbers from interested women whom she met in the door-to-door ministry, and as a result she was able to start two Bible studies.

11 **Cooperate With the Elders in Helping Inactive Ones:** The elders are very interested in giving loving attention to these. Quite a number of such ones, on their own initiative, have already resumed attending congregation meetings. They realize the need to seek close association with Jehovah's organization in order to have the spiritual security described in Psalm 91. Some of these are now ready to share in the field service again. If others who are inactive attend the Memorial this month, they may welcome having a personal Bible study. Should that be the case, the elders will work out the arrangements for someone to study with those who desire help. If you are invited to assist in this way, your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.—Rom. 15:1, 2.

12 **Keep "Maintaining Fine Works":** Many who have shared in auxiliary pioneer service for a month or more have found that their field activity increased in succeeding months. They met interested people on whom they felt the need to call back. This motivated them to put forth extra effort to get out in field service more often in order to contact the interested ones again. Some started studies, and that helped them to have an even greater share in the ministry.

13 Still others found so much joy in doing more in the preaching and disciple-making work that they were motivated to analyze their priorities. As a result, some were able to cut back on secular work and become continuous auxiliary pioneers. Others have been able to enter the regular pioneer service. They were able to rest their hope more fully on God and not on things the world has to offer. They found that being "liberal, ready to share," brought rich blessings from Jehovah and strengthened their hope of enjoying "the real life." (1 Tim. 6:18, 19) Of course, as more take up the pioneer service, the whole congregation benefits. Pioneers are prone to talk about their experiences and invite others to share in the ministry with them, and this generates a heightened spiritual atmosphere in the congregation.

14 May all of us "be rich in fine works" during this Memorial season and beyond by increasing our share in the Christian ministry. Let us show our appreciation for what Jehovah has done in giving us the hope of living forever in a righteous new earth. —2 Pet. 3:13.

“Gifts in Men” Eagerly Shepherd God’s Flock

[1] What a loving provision Jehovah has made through his Son in providing “gifts in men”! (Eph. 4:8, 11, 12) They have multiple responsibilities, including actively and eagerly shepherding the flock of God. (1 Pet. 5:2, 3) All of us benefit from this much-needed provision. Whether some are encountering difficulties, are newly associated, have certain weaknesses, or have gone astray, these men have a keen personal interest in the spiritual welfare of all.—Phil. 2:4; 1 Thess. 5:12-14.

[2] When disturbing world events cause a measure of apprehension, these undershepherds prove to be “like a hiding place from the wind and a place of concealment from the rainstorm.” When we are weary or loaded down and feel the need for comfort, they refresh us, “like streams of water in a waterless country” or “like the shadow of a heavy crag in an exhausted land.”—Isa. 32:2.

[3] **Encouraging the Inactive:** The elders make a special effort to encourage those who have become irregular or inactive, helping them to return to regular participation in all congregation activity. Loving shepherding calls have helped many to attend congregation meetings regularly and become built up spiritually to the point where they are sharing again in the field ministry. All such efforts on the part of the elders reflect Jehovah’s loving care and the active leadership of Jesus Christ. He set the pattern of showing such concern for any of his sheep who may have strayed or got lost.—Matt. 18:12-14; John 10:16, 27-29.

[4] The undershepherds look for signs that indicate when some may be faltering spiritually. Any who show signs of discouragement, who become irregular in attending meetings, or who slow down in field service are likely in need of spiritual assistance. The elders are eager to help any who begin to display a tendency toward worldly dress and grooming or who develop a critical attitude toward the congregation. With genuine interest and tender affection, concerned overseers willingly ‘impart their own souls’ in efforts to help such ones rekindle their love for Jehovah.—1 Thess. 2:8.

[5] In the past, some dedicated Christians have lost contact with the congregation, lapsing into spiritual inactivity because they have become overwhelmed by health problems, economic setbacks, or family pressures. Without being critical, the elders kindly give assurance that Jehovah cares for all his sheep and will sustain them through hard times. (Ps. 55:22; 1 Pet. 5:7) Alert shepherds of the flock can help them to realize that if they ‘draw close to God, he will draw close to them,’ giving comfort and refreshment.—Jas. 4:8; Ps. 23:3, 4.

[6] **Valuing the Infirm:** Loving undershepherds are also concerned about those who could be overlooked. Associated with every congregation are some who are infirm, confined to nursing homes, or otherwise incapacitated. Their share in proclaiming the Kingdom message is understandably limited because of their circumstances. Perhaps their opportunity to speak out may come only through contacts with visitors, other patients, or caregivers. Nevertheless, whatever they are able to do is viewed as a valuable contribution to the overall preaching work. (Matt. 25:15) Even if they witness for just 15 minutes, this should be reported, and they will continue to be counted as regular Kingdom publishers.

[7] The “gifts in men” are especially aware of the spiritual needs of their brothers at this time of the year—Memorial season. What a fitting time for the elders to make a special effort to help all who have strayed to experience once again the joy and peace of mind that come with warm association in the congregation! We rejoice when we see such ones “related to us in the faith” present at congregation meetings and out in the ministry, reaffirming their faith in the ransom sacrifice.—Gal. 6:10; Luke 15:4-7; John 10:11, 14.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

■ New Publications Available:

A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It —Albanian, Armenian, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Croatian, Czech, Dutch, Finnish, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Indonesian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Polish, Romanian, Serbian, Sinhala, Slovak, Swedish, Tamil, Ukrainian

Bible Topics for Discussion —Maltese

Does Fate Rule Our Lives?—Or Does God Hold Us Responsible? (for Muslims) (Tract No. 71) —Bambara

Do You Have an Immortal Spirit? (Tract No. 25) —Albanian, Bulgarian, Cebuano, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Faeroese, Finnish, Hungarian, Iloko, Indonesian, Japanese, Latvian, Lithuanian, Macedonian, Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Ukrainian, Yoruba

Enjoy Family Life (Tract No. 21) —Sango

From Kurukshetra to Armageddon—And Your Survival —Kannada

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I—Large Print —Czech, Dutch, Hungarian, Japanese, Romanian, Russian, Ukrainian

Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Afrikaans

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Marshallese, Telugu

My Book of Bible Stories —Luganda

My Book of Bible Stories (Small size) —Estonian

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy! —Bulgarian

Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Tigrinya

Reasoning From the Scriptures —Amharic

Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand! —Armenian

What Does God Require of Us? —Afrikaans, Fijian, Kinyarwanda, Marathi, Twi

Who Really Rules the World? (Tract No. 22) —Tongan

Why You Can Trust the Bible (Tract No. 13) —Tongan

Will This World Survive? (Tract No. 19) —Kurmanji Kurdish (Roman script), Lingala, Tongan

Would You Like to Know More About the Bible? (Tract No. 26) —Albanian, Amharic, Bulgarian, Croatian, Danish, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, German, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Slovak, Swedish, Ukrainian, Urdu

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Album of Greek Scriptures (18 cassettes) —Norwegian

The First to the Corinthians (single cassette) —Korean

The Second to the Corinthians, To the Galatians (single cassette) —Korean

The Secret of Family Happiness—On Audiocassette (four cassettes in an album) —Dutch

What Does God Require of Us? (single cassette) —Afrikaans

Why Respect Theocratic Arrangements? (Drama, single cassette) —German

■ New Braille Publications Available:

2002 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses (three volumes) —Grade-two English

A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It (one volume) —Grade-two English, Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-two German, Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

Do You Have an Immortal Spirit? (Tract No. 25) (one volume) —Grade-two English, Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-one Spanish

Examining the Scriptures Daily—2002 (four volumes) —Grade-two English

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I (four volumes) —Grade-two English, Grade-two French, Grade-two German

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for all Mankind I (six volumes) —Grade-one French, Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II (four volumes) —Grade-two English, Grade-two French, Grade-two German

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for all Mankind II (six volumes) —Grade-one French, Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe? (one volume) —Grade-two English, Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-two German, Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) (one volume) —Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-two German, Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

Jesus Christ—Who Is He? (Tract No. 24) (one volume) —Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-two German, Grade-one Italian

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (three volumes) —Grade-one Russian

Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2002 (one volume) —Grade-two English

When Someone You Love Dies (one volume) —Grade-two English, Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-one Spanish

Would You Like to Know More About the Bible? (Tract No. 26) (one volume) —Grade-two English, Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-two German, Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

You Can Be God's Friend! (one volume) —Grade-two English, Grade-one French, Grade-two French, Grade-two German, Grade-one Italian, Grade-one Spanish

Note: Braille publications should be requested through the congregation. A separate Literature Request Form (S-14) is to be submitted for Braille material, including the name and address of the Braille reader. Please mark it **ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK.**

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Our Whole Association of Brothers —Japanese, Spanish

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived—On Videocassette, Volume 6 —American Sign Language

Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights —English

Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends? —Polish

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Publishers should inform householders that they may contribute to the worldwide work if they so desire. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* When householders have these publications, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.
- Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in April should make their plans now and turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient magazines and other literature on hand. The names of all who are approved to auxiliary pioneer should be announced to the congregation each month.
- The Memorial will be held on Thursday, March 28, 2002. If your congregation normally has meetings on Thursday, these are to be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If this is not possible and your Service Meeting is affected, the parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation may be incorporated into another Service Meeting.
- The branch office does not fill individual publisher's requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.
- It is important that groups of 20 or more persons planning to visit the branch office facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting the facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, or the Assembly Hall at Jersey City, New Jersey. Please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The branch office will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. LODGING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGREGATION ELDERS AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONGREGATION SECRETARY. Before your visit, please review the March 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.
- A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.
- *The Watchtower* is now available as a large-print edition in Efik, Igbo, and Yoruba.
- All future publications in Azerbaijani will be published using Roman (or, Latin) script. For a time, some will still be available in Cyrillic.

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Thursday, March 28. The elders should give attention to the following matters:

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready. —See the February 15, 1985, *Watchtower,* page 19.
- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other meeting place should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties, the proper procedure to be followed, and the need for dignified dress and grooming.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.

Increase Your Joy in Preaching

1 The joy of sharing the good news—are you experiencing it in your ministry? If we are not careful, the wicked world around us could make us timid about preaching, causing us to lose our joy. Working in unresponsive territory could also dampen our spirit. What practical steps can we take to increase our joy in preaching?

2 **Be Positive:** Maintaining a positive attitude really helps. One way to do that is by meditating on our grand privilege of being "God's fellow workers." (1 Cor. 3:9) Jesus too is with us in accomplishing this work. (Matt. 28:20) And he backs us up with an army of angels. (Matt. 13:41, 49) We can be assured, then, that our efforts are divinely directed. (Rev. 14:6, 7) So despite how some humans may react to our work, the heavenly response is one of great rejoicing!

3 **Prepare Well:** Good preparation also contributes to our joy. Getting ready for the ministry need not entail a lot of work. It takes just a few minutes to consider a talking point from the current magazines or the month's literature offer. Pick a presentation from "What to Say About the Magazines," in *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Consult the January 2002 insert, "Suggested Field Service Presentations," or look in the *Reasoning* book for an effective introduction. If you are stymied by an objection that householders commonly raise, prepare a reply that will acknowledge their comment and direct attention to an interest-arousing subject. The *Reasoning* book is very helpful in doing this. Using these aids will give us the confidence we need to preach with joy.

4 **Pray Earnestly:** Prayer is essential for lasting joy. Since we are doing Jehovah's work, we need to beseech him for his spirit, one fruit of which is joy. (Gal. 5:22) Jehovah will give us strength to continue preaching. (Phil. 4:13) Praying about our ministry can help us keep the right perspective when we have negative experiences. (Acts 13:52; 1 Pet. 4:13, 14) If we feel intimidated, prayer can help us to persist boldly and cheerfully.—Acts 4:31.

5 **Create Opportunities:** Of course, our ministry is more joyful when we are able to find people and witness to them. Altering your schedule to call from house to house at a different hour, perhaps in the late afternoon or early evening, may result in more success. You encounter people every time you walk down the street, go shopping, ride a bus, or stroll in the park. Why not prepare a brief conversation starter and take the initiative to approach those who appear to be friendly? Or you may work at a secular job or go to public school, where you converse daily with others. You might get a chance to give a witness by simply raising a Scriptural subject that stirs some interest. Good suggestions are found on the first page of the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Any of these efforts could do much to increase one's level of joy in preaching.

6 Since joy helps us to endure, how vital it is to maintain it! By doing so, we will reap a large reward when this never-to-be-repeated work comes to its conclusion. That prospect in itself can increase our joy in preaching.—Matt. 25:21.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Mar. 15**

"Would you agree that righteous rulership would make this earth a better place to live? [Allow for response.] Please note what the Bible promises. [Read Psalm 37:11.] We can enjoy such peace, which will be a reality under an ideal Leader who is identified in these articles."

Awake! Mar. 22

"Earthquakes can cause untold death and destruction. Survivors are often left homeless, with no means to recover. This issue of *Awake!* shows how victims have been able to cope with the aftermath of an earthquake. It also explains how earthquakes figure into a very important Bible prophecy."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Apr. 1**

"Let me share with you a heartwarming thought from the Bible. [Read Matthew 22:37.] What do you think that means? [Allow for response.] Notice this article, 'Search for God With Your Heart and Mind.' Is true faith simply a matter of the heart, or should it also involve the mind? The answer is enlightening."

Awake! Apr. 8

"As you know, caring for a family is a challenge these days, and being a mother is a demanding job. This issue of *Awake!* has an interesting discussion on the subject 'Motherhood—Does It Take a Superwoman?' I'd like to leave this copy with you."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 4/02 Vol. 45, No. 4

Kingdom Preaching Helps Save Lives!

[1] It is the most important work going on in the world at this time. Jehovah God, Jesus Christ, and myriads of angels have fixed their attention on it. What is it, and why is it essential? It is Kingdom preaching, and it helps save lives!—Rom. 1:16; 10:13, 14.

[2] Some people may feel that we could better serve others if we got involved in trying to improve the world around us. Many are consumed with efforts to attain peace, cure diseases, or improve the economy. But what will help people the most?

[3] **An Excelling Work:** The Kingdom message alone explains the purpose of life, the cause of human suffering, and the only reliable hope for the future. The good news enables people to become friends of Jehovah and thus receive "the peace of God that excels all thought." (Phil. 4:7) Only the Kingdom message provides practical guidance to help people to cope with life's problems now and explains how to be preserved alive when the wicked world is destroyed in the future. (1 John 2:17) Is that not worth all the effort we can put into Kingdom preaching?

[4] To illustrate: What would be the best way to help a sleeping village that is imperiled by a dam that will soon burst? Bailing water from behind the weakening dam? Beautifying the doomed village? No! The villagers must be awakened, warned of the impending disaster, and helped to escape! Those who are spiritually asleep today are in grave danger. (Luke 21:34-36) Since this system of things will be passing away soon, let us endeavor to preach with utmost urgency to all we can!—2 Tim. 4:2; 2 Pet. 3:11, 12.

[5] **Stick With It:** Let us look for ways to reach even more people who are sincere with the good news—at their homes, on the street, over the telephone, and informally. The work Jehovah has given us to do is the most important work we could possibly do. If we carry it out zealously, we 'will save both ourselves and those who listen to us.'—1 Tim. 4:16.

An Enthusiastic Response!

[1] Christian families everywhere have expressed their enthusiastic appreciation for the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* A father in the United States said that after viewing it his sons sat silently—they could relate to everything in the video! A report from Malawi says that young brothers and sisters there could also relate to it because they experience the same pressures from their peers at school. A father in Germany said of the video: "I consider it an answer to my prayers." A youth said: "Thank you for reminding me that Jehovah does care about me." An elder in New Zealand reported: "It helped one of our teenagers get back on the road to life." A married adult watched it and said: "How I wish every young person in the truth would see this video and be moved to make the truth his own!" Families, why not watch it again? Afterward, discuss together the following questions.

[2] **Introduction:** What is a true friend?—Prov. 18:24.

[3] **Roadblocks to Friendship:** How can you overcome the feeling of being left out? (Phil. 2:4) Why must you be willing to improve your personality, and who can help you to do that? What will open up opportunities to make more friends, and where can they be found?—2 Cor. 6:13.

[4] **Friendship With God:** How can you develop a relationship with Jehovah, and why is it worth the effort? (Ps. 34:8) Who can best strengthen your friendship with God?

[5] **The Wrong Kind of Friends:** Who are bad associates? (1 Cor. 15:33) How can the wrong friends lead one into spiritual ruin? What does the Bible account about Dinah teach you?—Gen. 34:1, 2, 7, 19.

[6] **A Modern-Day Drama:** How did loneliness affect Tara? How did she justify her association with worldly youths? To what dangers did they expose her? Why did her parents fail to see the danger she was in, but with what attitude did they help her to recover spiritually? How did a pioneer sister prove to be a real friend to Tara? Why must Christians heed Proverbs 13:20 and Jeremiah 17:9? What important lesson did Tara learn?

[7] **Conclusion:** What lessons have you learned from this video? How can you use it to help others?—Ps. 71:17.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting April 8

Song 39

13 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to view the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of April 22. Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the April 15 *Watchtower* and the April 22 *Awake!* In each case, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I have my own religion."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 18-19.

12 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Work What Is Good Toward All."* After the question-and-answer discussion, interview one or two publishers who tell how they are expanding their ministry.

Song 157 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 15

Song 101

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Pioneers Keep Assisting Others. Service overseer holds a panel discussion with a Congregation Book Study overseer, a pioneer, and a publisher. The service overseer reviews the Pioneers Assist Others program as outlined in the September 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. Then he discusses with each one on the panel his or her role in the program and how it is serving its purpose. What has been done to make it a success? The service overseer invites all publishers to let him know if they want to receive assistance in the ministry. Those who were assisted in the past may be included again to receive further help in another feature of the ministry.

20 min: "The Joys of Full-Time Service."* Encourage youths to apply for auxiliary pioneering through the spring and summer months.

Song 199 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 22

Song 90

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, have a ministerial servant demonstrate how to present the May 1 *Watchtower* and have a sister show how to present the May 8 *Awake!* After each demonstration, restate the opening sentence or two that was used to arouse the householder's interest.

10 min: Be on Time! A talk. Activities associated with our worship and service are important affairs, calling for "an appointed time." (Eccl. 3:1) We want to derive the fullest benefit from theocratic provisions. Congregation meetings and meetings for service should begin promptly at the designated times. Jehovah is never late in carrying out his activities. (Hab. 2:3) Do we need to improve in this regard? Occasionally, individuals may be unavoidably delayed. But with good organization, we need not be habitually late, arriving after the opening song and prayer of a meeting or after field service arrangements have already been made. Discuss practical ways to cultivate better habits that will ensure our being prompt for all spiritual activities.—See June 15, 1990, *Watchtower,* page 29.

25 min: "An Enthusiastic Response!"* In paragraph 1, allow the congregation to add some brief expressions about the video *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* Then get right into an audience discussion of each question presented in paragraphs 2-7. In June we will review the video *Our Whole Association of Brothers.*

Song 191 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 29

Song 162

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for April.

15 min: "Kingdom Preaching Helps Save Lives!"* Draw comments from the audience on how the scriptures apply.

20 min: Research Using the *Reasoning* Book. Audience discussion. Questions often arise in the ministry about topics that are not listed under "Principal Subjects" (pages 5-6) in the *Reasoning* book. The "Index" (pages 439-45) is very useful in locating Scriptural support for our beliefs. Invite audience to participate in finding answers to the following questions by looking in the index under each italicized word: What is a Christian's view of national *anthems* and *flags?* Why does God permit *disasters?* How can you explain the Bible's view of *divorce?* Why and when do sisters sometimes need to wear a *head covering?* What is the origin of *Mother's Day?* How do we know that *144,000* is a literal number in the Bible? What does the parable of the *rich man and Lazarus* mean? Encourage everyone to use the *Reasoning* book in the ministry.

Song 28 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 6

Song 141

10 min: Local announcements. Discuss "Continue Benefiting From *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*"

10 min: Planning Ahead for Summer. Talk and audience discussion. Outline activities usually planned for summer: attending the entire district convention, auxiliary pioneering one or more months, making improvements around the house, and perhaps enjoying a vacation or some recreation. Invite a few to relate their summer plans and how they will make sure that they do not neglect their family study, congregation meetings, and field service, even if traveling elsewhere. If the congregation has seldom-worked territory, announce what arrangements are being made for thorough coverage. Remind all to make sure that the Congregation Book Study overseer receives their field service reports, regardless of whether they are at home or away.

25 min: "Spiritually Strong Families—How?"* After discussing the article, relate some practical experiences from the February 15, 1999, *Watchtower,* pages 10-12.

Song 17 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

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“Work What Is Good Toward All”

1 “Preach the Word of God Fully” and “Be Rich in Fine Works” were the themes used in the February and March 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* inserts. (Col. 1:25; 1 Tim. 6:18) In those issues we were encouraged to put forth extra effort to help interested ones attend the Memorial, to help inactive ones become involved again in the congregation, and to help our children and qualified Bible students to begin publishing the good news. No doubt we have enjoyed some success as a result of our good efforts. Now, “as long as we have time favorable for it, let us [continue to] work what is good toward all.”—Gal. 6:10.

2 **Invite Them to Attend Again:** In the United States branch territory, over a million people who are not publishers of the good news attend the Memorial each year. Since their presence indicates a measure of interest, what must we do to stimulate those who are “rightly disposed for everlasting life” to become “believers”? (Acts 13:48) Encourage them to return to the congregation meetings as soon as possible.

3 Why not invite an interested person to attend the Congregation Book Study to enjoy an interesting discussion of Isaiah’s prophecy? If you are a relative or an acquaintance of the person and you are scheduled to give an upcoming talk on the Theocratic Ministry School, you might invite that one to come and hear your part. Keep him informed of the titles of the public talks that are to be given in the weeks ahead. (An up-to-date schedule should be posted on the information board.) Look for any opportunity to awaken in the person a desire to worship Jehovah. And of course, if he is not already studying the Bible with someone in the congregation, you can kindly offer him a study.

Continue to Assist:

☑ **Memorial attenders**
☑ **Reactivated publishers**
☑ **New unbaptized publishers**

4 **Keep Encouraging the Inactive:** A number of those who attend the Memorial have already made a dedication to Jehovah. However, at some point they stopped actively preaching the good news. And yet, Paul exhorted us to “work what is good . . . especially toward those related to us in the faith.” (Gal. 6:10) Hence, the inactive ones should be of prime concern.

5 Perhaps some have already responded to the encouragement from the elders and others to get involved once again in the ministry. If you are assigned by the elders to work with a reactivated publisher, know that your own love for Jehovah and for the field ministry will build confidence in that one. Show him how you engage in the various features of the ministry so that he can find joy in it, will stick with the preaching work, and may experience Jehovah’s blessings.

6 **Give New Publishers a Good Start:** When a newly interested woman realized that she had found God’s true organization, she wanted to start in the service right away. After learning what was required of her, she said: “Let’s get busy with it.” If someone with whom you have been studying the Bible is now approved to begin sharing in field service, help him see the need to “get busy with it,” and so get the new publisher off to a good start. Help him develop a routine of preparing for and sharing regularly in the field ministry each week.

7 If it is your own child who has become a new unbaptized publisher, work with him to make progress according to his age and ability. With a little help from you, he may surprise you with how well he can engage someone in conversation, read from the Bible, and offer literature. When he has a good call in the field service, train him to make a return visit and follow up the interest.

8 **Expand Your Own Ministry:** Do your circumstances allow you to increase your share in the evangelizing work even beyond the Memorial season? Could you add an hour or two each week to what you usually spend in the service? Are you looking ahead on the calendar to when you can auxiliary pioneer again? Or can you arrange your life-style to enter the full-time ministry? All the effort we put forth in the ministry may help someone to accept the truth! (Acts 8:26-39) As we look to the days ahead, let us “always pursue what is good toward one another and to all others.”—1 Thess. 5:15.

The Joys of Full-Time Service

¹ As a young person, you have no doubt given some thought to your future. Proverbs 21:5 tells us that "the plans of the diligent one surely make for advantage." It will be to your advantage to give serious thought to your goals in life. As you make your plans for the future, consider taking up the full-time service. Why?

² Ask some adults who pioneered during their younger years what their impressions are and invariably they will say the same thing: "Those were the best years of my life!" A brother who experienced the joys of full-time service from his young manhood on said in later life: "It is a source of deep satisfaction to look back on the time of youth and be able to say that one has heeded the wise counsel: 'Remember, now, your grand Creator in the days of your young manhood.'" (Eccl. 12:1) It takes good planning now, by both you and your parents, to work out a way for you to experience this kind of joy in your young manhood or young womanhood.

³ **Parents, Encourage Full-Time Service:** Jehovah, as a caring Father, shows you exactly which way to go. (Isa. 30:21) In providing such loving guidance, he sets a fine example for you as Christian parents. Instead of leaving it up to your children to choose which way is best for them, wisely train them in the way that they should go so that they will have Jehovah's blessing. Then, when they grow older, your training will help them "distinguish both right and wrong." (Heb. 5:14) Adults know from experience that they cannot trust their own judgment; they must rely on Jehovah to make their paths straight. (Prov. 3:5, 6) This need is even greater for youths, who are less experienced in life.

⁴ Parents, as your children approach the teen years, or even earlier, talk to them realistically about their career goals. School counselors, teachers, and classmates will try to influence them in favor of worldly, materialistic pursuits. Help your children to choose school courses that provide practical training, equipping them to care for their material needs without sacrificing Kingdom interests. (1 Tim. 6:6-11) In many cases, a high school education along with vocational and/or on-the-job training may be all that is needed to care adequately for one's necessities while starting out in the regular pioneer ministry.

⁵ Encourage youths to pursue the gift of singleness. If they later decide to marry, they will be in a better position to assume the heavier responsibilities of marriage. (See paragraph 19 in the June 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, "Can You Make Yourself Available?") By speaking in a positive way about pioneering, serving where the need is greater, Bethel service, and missionary activity, instill in young people even at an early age a desire to use their lives in a way that pleases Jehovah, benefits others, and brings joy to themselves.

⁶ **Youths, Put Full-Time Service First:** Young people, you need not wonder what the pioneer work is like. You can try it on a part-time basis by auxiliary pioneering whenever possible throughout the school year and during vacation periods. Then you will know how satisfying the pioneer service really is! Can you see your way clear to auxiliary pioneer between now and the end of summer?

⁷ If you are a young brother in God's organization, also think seriously about reaching out to qualify as a ministerial servant. (1 Tim. 3:8-10, 12) Additionally, decide whether you want to apply for Bethel service or to attend the Ministerial Training School, once you reach the qualifying age. Your experience in the pioneer ministry will teach you valuable lessons, such as how to live by a schedule, how to improve your personal organization, how to get along with others, and how to develop a sense of responsibility. All of this will prepare you for greater privileges of service later on.

⁸ A key factor in succeeding in full-time service is having a spirit of theocratic industriousness. The apostle Paul encouraged such an attitude, and he pointed out the blessings that would result: "Whatever you are doing, work at it whole-souled as to Jehovah, . . . for you know that it is from Jehovah you will receive the due reward." (Col. 3:23, 24) May Jehovah bless you with many joys in the full-time service!

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of January 7 to April 22, 2002. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. At Ecclesiastes 2:2, the point that Solomon makes is that laughter and rejoicing should be avoided. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 9/15 p. 24 par. 5.]
2. Far from being a book of pessimism, Ecclesiastes is studded with bright gems of divine wisdom and shows that calamitous occupations are those that ignore God. [*si* p. 114 par. 15]
3. At Isaiah 1:7, the prophet refers to the desolation of Judah during Ahaz' reign. [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* p. 17 par. 16.]
4. "Standing before the throne and before the Lamb," as mentioned at Revelation 7:9, indicates a heavenly location. [*rs* p. 167 par. 5]
5. Generously 'honoring Jehovah' with our resources—our time, talents, strength, and material possessions—results in rich spiritual blessings from Jehovah. (Prov. 3:9, 10) [*w*00 1/15 p. 25 par. 1]
6. The modern-day 'strange deed and unusual work' foretold at Isaiah 28:21 refers to the destruction of the nations at Armageddon. [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* p. 295 par. 16; p. 301 par. 28.]
7. As Matthew 24:38, 39 shows, indulgence in food and drink, along with other human activities, caused the people of Noah's day to be swept away by the Deluge. [*w*00 2/15 p. 6 par. 6]
8. Jehovah always grants the requests of his humble servants who unselfishly serve him. [*w*00 3/1 p. 4 par. 3]
9. The "nations" referred to at Isaiah 60:3 are individual political nations that have been attracted to God-given light. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*00 1/1 p. 12 par. 4.]
10. Jehovah "sanctified" Jeremiah before he was born in that He fixed Jeremiah's eternal destiny. (Jer. 1:5) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 4/1 p. 10 par. 2.]

Answer the following questions:

11. At Ecclesiastes 11:1, what is meant by 'sending out bread'? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 9/15 p. 25 par. 11.]
12. At Isaiah 6:8, whom does Jehovah include when he says "us"? [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* pp. 93-4 par. 13.]
13. In fulfillment of Isaiah 9:2, how did "a great light" shine in Galilee? [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* p. 126 par. 17.]
14. What modern-day parallel can be drawn concerning Babylon's fall in 539 B.C.E. and her eventual total desolation? (Isa. 13:19, 20; 14:22, 23) [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* p. 188 pars. 30-1.]
15. How has "the faithful and discreet slave" acted as the "lookout" described at Isaiah 21:6? (Matt. 24:45) [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* pp. 221-2 par. 11.]
16. What wise advice for a young man seeking a marriage partner is found at Proverbs 31:10? [*w*00 2/1 p. 31 par. 1]
17. At Isaiah 43:9, what challenge is issued to the gods of the nations? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 2/1 p. 16 par. 3.]
18. In what way are the feet of those who declare the good news of God's Kingdom "comely"? (Isa. 52:7) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*97 4/15 p. 27 par. 6.]
19. What is it necessary for us to do in order to prevent our heart from deceiving us? (Jer. 17:9) [*w*00 3/1 p. 30 par. 4]

20. What must those who ‘walk in Jehovah’s way’ do? (Jer. 7:23) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*99 8/15 p. 29 par. 6.]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. “The heart of the wise is at his right hand” in the sense that the “right hand” often denotes a ________ ; thus, this indicates that his ________ motivates him to pursue a good, favorable course. (Eccl. 10:2; Matt. 25:33) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 9/15 p. 25 par. 8.]

22. Among the beneficial lessons that are taught in the Song of Solomon are ________ , ________ , and ________ to godly principles. [*si* p. 117 par. 16]

23. The despoiler of the cities of Judah, described at Isaiah 33:1, is Assyria, which would itself end up defeated in 632 B.C.E., leaving behind great spoil for the inhabitants of Judah, who would ‘gather it like the cockroaches.’ (Isa. 33:4) [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* p. 343 par. 4; p. 345 par. 6.]

24. A comparison of Isaiah 54:1 with Galatians 4:26, 27 reveals that the “barren woman” pictures “________”; and “the woman with a husbandly owner,” the ________. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 8/1 p. 11 par. 8.]

25. When we meet with ridicule and rejection in our public ministry, we need to remember that such opposition is really directed, not against ________, but against ________, the Source of our message. (2 Cor. 4:1, 7) [*w*00 1/15 p. 21 par. 2]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. When writing about his vision of Jesus’ heavenly glory, Paul refers to himself as one having been “born prematurely,” meaning that (he was newly spirit-begotten; he received an early appointment as apostle to the nations; it was as if he had been granted the honor of being born, or resurrected, to spirit life ahead of time). (1 Cor. 9:1; 15:8) [*w*00 1/15 p. 29 par. 6]

27. The title “Eternal Father” refers to the Messianic King’s power and authority to give humans (spiritual vitality; immortal life in heaven; the prospect of eternal life on earth). (Isa. 9:6; John 11:25, 26) [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* p. 131 par. 26.]

28. In the modern fulfillment of Isaiah 66:7, the “male child” that was brought forth represents (Jesus Christ; the Messianic Kingdom; a new spiritual nation in 1919). [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 1/1 p. 11 par. 3.]

29. A careful reading of Matthew 10:28 helps us to see that fiery Gehenna (is a place of conscious torment; represents eternal destruction; denotes estrangement from God). [*rs* p. 173 par. 3]

30. In the modern-day fulfillment, “the nation whose people have not obeyed the voice of Jehovah,” spoken of at Jeremiah 7:28, refers to (Babylon the Great; Christendom; the seventh world power). [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 4/1 p. 18 par. 10.]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Prov. 24:16; Eccl. 3:11; Isa. 40:8; Rom. 10:15; 1 Pet. 4:6

31. In its own time, the proper place in which each work of God fits into his purpose will be revealed. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*87 9/15 p. 24 par. 8.]

32. The preaching of the good news to those spiritually dead provides an opportunity for them to repent. [*rs* p. 163 par. 5]

33. Although setbacks in life are unavoidable, the godly individual does not give up in striving to do what is fine. [*w*00 2/1 p. 5 par. 1]

34. God’s word, or stated purpose, cannot be annulled or hindered from being fulfilled. [Weekly Bible reading; see *ip-1* pp. 401-2 par. 10.]

35. The apostles of Jesus made good use of Isaiah’s prophecy, applying it to the ministry. [*si* p. 123 par. 37]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is found on return visits, include the person on a magazine route. Offer the *Require* brochure, with a view to starting Bible studies. **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* When householders have these publications, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **July:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever, The Government That Will Bring Paradise, What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies.* The brochures *A Book for All People, Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?, Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate.
- Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 2002 in Armenian, Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. Based on the size of each congregation, cards will be shipped in lots of 25. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregations, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Plastic badge holders must be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.
- It is necessary for the branch office to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the Congregation Service Committee should complete, sign, and send a Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address (S-29) form to the branch office promptly. This includes any changes in area codes.
- Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms Application for Regular Pioneer Service (S-205) and Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service (S-205b). These can be ordered on the Literature Request Form (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Review all regular pioneer application forms to make sure they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it.
- Whenever personal travel plans include attending congregation meetings, an assembly, or a district convention in another land, your request for information regarding dates, times, and locations must be directed to the branch office that oversees the work in that land. Addresses of branch offices are listed on the last page of the current *Yearbook.*
- *The Watchtower* is now available as a large-print edition in Zulu.
- New Publications Available:

Watch Tower Publications Index 2001 —English

- New Videocassettes Available:

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived—On Videocassette, Volume 7 —American Sign Language

Warning Examples for Our Day—On Videocassette —English

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**148**	**120.4**	**102.4**	**58.6**	**5.1**
Pios.	**89,007**	**66.5**	**46.1**	**22.1**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**18,896**	**49.8**	**36.8**	**14.2**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**855,713**	**9.3**	**8.4**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**963,764**			Baptized:	**1,941**

Continue Benefiting From *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

Now that mail subscriptions to the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines are being discontinued, effort will be required to ensure that we, and those to whom we preach, do not miss even one issue.

Personal Copies: When your personal subscription expires, increase your present order at the magazine counter. Parents should order enough magazines so that each family member has his own copy. Putting your name on your personal copy will ensure that it is not inadvertently placed in the field. When shipments of magazines arrive, the brothers handling them will make each issue available *immediately* at the Kingdom Hall.

Magazine Routes: Publishers should endeavor to establish a magazine route with all interested ones who desire to receive each issue. Delivering the magazines personally to such ones will provide opportunities to cultivate the interest shown and to start Bible studies.—See *Our Kingdom Ministry,* October 1998, page 8.

Those With Special Needs: If an individual displays genuine interest but lives in unassigned territory, an exception can be made to allow him to receive the magazines by mail subscription. If a person living in the congregation's territory cannot be served by a magazine route but is sincerely interested in receiving the magazines, discuss the case with the Congregation Service Committee. If they approve, a subscription can be turned in for the interested person. The standard subscription forms (M-1 and M-101) may be used for this purpose.

We can be confident that Jehovah will continue to bless all our efforts to advertise the Kingdom by means of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

Spiritually Strong Families—How?

[1] Christian families are commended for 'practicing godly devotion in their own households.' (1 Tim. 5:4) However, with so many bad influences around us that can weaken our faith, it is vital that families work hard to remain spiritually strong. How can this be accomplished?

[2] **Exercise Christlike Headship:** Family heads need to imitate Jesus Christ in the way they shoulder their responsibility to strengthen their households. More than giving a onetime demonstration of his love for us through his sacrificial death, Jesus continually "feeds and cherishes" the congregation. (Eph. 5:25-29) Loving parents follow this example of tender care by seeing to the day-to-day spiritual needs of their families. This includes holding a family Bible study each week, having rich spiritual discussions whenever possible, and addressing problems as they arise.—Deut. 6: 6, 7.

[3] **In the Field Ministry:** All family members should appreciate that witnessing to others about Jehovah and his purposes is an important part of their worship. (Isa. 43:10-12) If you parents want your children to be faithful Witnesses of Jehovah, you must start very early in preparing their heart for the ministry. Discuss the reasons why there is a need to be self-sacrificing in the service and to engage in it each week. (Matt. 22:37-39) Then make arrangements for them to share regularly with you in the field ministry.

[4] Build appreciation for the preaching work by setting aside time during the weekly family study to prepare and rehearse an effective presentation. Give your children individualized training in the ministry, helping them to make advancement according to their age and ability. After spending time together in service, discuss how they saw Jehovah's goodness firsthand. Relate faith-strengthening experiences. The more that families "have tasted that the Lord is kind," the closer they will be to Jehovah, fortifying them to resist "all badness."—1 Pet. 2: 1-3.

[5] **At the Meetings:** How fine it is when family members help one another to attend all congregation meetings, especially if one of them is feeling tired, discouraged, or overwhelmed! "When my father comes home from work, he is tired," remarked one young sister. "But I share with him a good point that will be talked about at the meeting that evening, and it encourages him to go. Then when I feel tired, he encourages me to go."—Heb. 10:24, 25.

[6] **Doing Things Together:** Families should do things together, such as helping with household duties. Time should also be set aside for well-chosen recreation. Picnicking, hiking, playing games, and traveling to visit relatives or friends can provide happy moments and fond memories to look back on.—Eccl. 3:4.

[7] Stalwart Christian families overcome the daily challenges to their spirituality. By drawing even closer to Jehovah, they experience the power that he supplies.—Eph. 6:10.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Apr. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"No matter where they live, people are interested in security, such as finding and holding a good job. But have you ever considered that there is a source of permanent security, enabling you to be secure forever? [Read Psalm 16:8, 9.] This issue of *The Watchtower* examines where genuine security can be found."

Awake! Apr. 22

"Many today are leaving organized religion to worship God in their own way. How do you feel about that trend? [Allow for response.] The Bible shows that it really matters to God how we worship him. [Read John 4:24.] This issue of *Awake!* tells about the best way to satisfy your spiritual needs."

THE WATCHTOWER May 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Do you know someone who is seriously ill or who suffers from a disability? No doubt you agree that such ones need encouragement. But what can we say to support them? The Bible offers words of hope. [Read Isaiah 35:5, 6.] This issue of *The Watchtower* explains why we can be sure this prophecy will come true."

Awake! May 8

"During this past year, peace has been threatened as never before. Do you think that it is within the powers of human governments to establish world peace? [After a response, read Isaiah 2:4.] This issue of *Awake!* shows why we can be certain that world peace will soon be a reality."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 5/02 Vol. 45, No. 5

Our Faith Moves Us to Good Works

1 Faith caused Noah, Moses, and Rahab to act. Noah built the ark. Moses forsook the temporary advantages of life in Pharaoh's court. Rahab hid the spies and then obeyed their instructions, saving her household. (Heb. 11:7, 24-26, 31) What good works does our faith move us to produce today?

2 **Witnessing:** Faith moves us to speak about our wonderful God and his provisions for eternal happiness. (2 Cor. 4:13) At times, we may feel hesitant to give a witness. But when we 'place Jehovah in front of us constantly,' we are strengthened and fear subsides. (Ps. 16:8) Then our faith impels us to share the good news with relatives, neighbors, workmates, schoolmates, and others on every appropriate occasion.—Rom. 1:14-16.

3 **Meeting Together:** Regular meeting attendance is another good work that springs from faith. How so? It shows our conviction that Jesus is present with us by means of God's holy spirit when we gather at Christian meetings. (Matt. 18:20) It manifests our desire to "hear what the spirit says to the congregations." (Rev. 3:6) We take seriously the instruction that we receive because our eyes of faith perceive that the one teaching us is our Grand Instructor, Jehovah.—Isa. 30:20.

4 **The Choices We Make:** Strong conviction of unseen realities moves us to give spiritual matters priority in our lives. (Heb. 11:1) This often involves making material sacrifices. For example, an elder turned down a lucrative secular opportunity because it would have meant missing meetings, being away from his family, and relinquishing his pioneer ministry. May we likewise place our full confidence in the Bible's assurance that Jehovah will provide for those who "keep on . . . seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness."—Matt. 6:33.

5 The powerful influence that faith exerts on our lives does not go unnoticed by others. Indeed, our faith is known earth wide. (Rom. 1:8) May all of us, therefore, demonstrate by our good works that our faith is alive.—Jas. 2:26.

Are You Using the *Require* Brochure to Start Studies?

1 Did you realize that if you regularly and systematically have Bible discussions, though brief, with an interested person and cover material in one of the recommended publications, you are conducting a Bible study? Yes, this is true even if the study takes place on the doorstep or over the telephone. Why not make a special effort during May and June to start such a study using the *Require* brochure?

2 **Prepare for Success:** When offering the *Require* brochure, have clearly in mind what you want to discuss. If you are making a return visit, think about the conversation you had on the initial call. Ask yourself: 'Which paragraphs in the brochure can I feature to build on that discussion and lead into a Bible study?' If you are calling from house to house, consider what subjects will appeal to a teenager, an older person, a man, or a woman. Review the brochure's topics, and identify a subject of interest. After deciding on an approach, practice several times. This is one of the keys to success.

3 The January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert gives eight "Suggestions for Presenting the *Require* Brochure." The box "The Direct Approach" shows how to use the brochure to start studies. You might adapt the first suggestion as follows:

■ "Did you know that in just a few minutes, you can find the answer to an important Bible question? For example, why are there so many religions that claim to be Christian? Have you ever wondered about that?" After the person responds, turn to lesson 13 and discuss the first two paragraphs. As time permits, read and discuss a scripture or two. Then read the last question at the top of the page, and say: "The rest of the lesson highlights five identifying marks of true religion. I would be happy to return and consider these with you."

4 **Be Persistent:** Take advantage of every opportunity to demonstrate a Bible study in the *Require* brochure. Ask for Jehovah's blessing. (Matt. 21:22) By persisting in your efforts, you may taste the joy of helping someone to respond to the good news!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

NOTE: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to repeat pointed counsel from this month's insert that applies locally. During the month of October, an entire Service Meeting will be arranged to review highlights of the convention program. In preparation for that discussion, all of us can take meaningful notes at the convention, including a list of specific points that we wish to apply personally in our own life and in the field ministry. Then we can explain how we have applied those suggestions since attending the convention. It will be mutually upbuilding to hear one another tell how they benefited from the good instruction that was received.

Week Starting May 13

Song 37

15 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have separate demonstrations of how to present the May 15 *Watchtower* and the May 22 *Awake!* In each demonstration, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I'm busy."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 19-20.

15 min: "A Special Interchange of Encouragement." A talk. Build appreciation for attending the district convention. Urge all to be present for every session, from Friday morning through Sunday afternoon.

15 min: "Always Pursue What Is Good."* Stress the need to abide by the rooming arrangements that have been put into place for our benefit. Emphasize the six reminders in paragraph 2. Explain why good conduct on everyone's part is essential.

Song 115 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 20

Song 13

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Review Question Box.

12 min: "Satisfy Your Spiritual Need." Talk and audience discussion. Consider the reasons why all should pay close attention to the convention program. Stress the need to apply what we learn rather than just to hear. Consider the note above regarding what is planned for a Service Meeting in October, when there will be a review of district convention highlights. Encourage all to take notes. Invite a few expressions about the benefits derived from last year's program.

18 min: "Modesty in Dress and Grooming."* To be handled by an elder, who will read each paragraph after it is discussed. Help all to appreciate why it is important to be careful about our personal appearance in public.

Song 169 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 27

Song 208

12 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for May. Using the suggestions on page 8, have an older publisher demonstrate how to present the June 1 *Watchtower* and have a younger publisher show how to present the June 8 *Awake!* After each demonstration, comment on how easily a scripture can be included in the presentation.

15 min: "Does Your Congregation Have a Large Territory?" Talk and audience discussion to be handled by the service overseer. (Congregations having limited territory can review the article "Make Your Time Count," in the June 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*) Point out how much territory the congregation holds and how much of it has been covered in the past year. Explain how the suggestions offered might be applied locally. Review plans being made to cover seldom-worked territory in the near future.

18 min: "Are You Using the *Require* Brochure to Start Studies?" (All should have the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert with them for this discussion.) Begin by having a well-prepared publisher demonstrate how to start a study, using the example in paragraph 3. Afterward, mention highlights of the brochure, and explain how it is well designed for starting studies. Show the value of reviewing the suggested presentations in the January 2002 insert. Ask the audience which suggestions have been successful for them. Conclude by repeating the above demonstration.

Song 93 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 3

Song 178

15 min: Local announcements. Arrange for publishers to relate the blessings they experienced as a result of sharing in the auxiliary or regular pioneer work during March, April, or May.

15 min: How the *Reasoning* Book Uses Other Bible Translations. Brief talk followed by audience discussion. Read paragraph 2 on page 8 of the *Reasoning* book, and explain why and how the Bible should be highlighted in our ministry. Point out the list of Bible abbreviations on page 6, and explain why we use renderings from other translations. Discuss the cautions mentioned in the October 1, 1997, *Watchtower,* page 16, paragraph 2, and page 20, paragraph 15. Using the subjects "Apostolic Succession," "Images," and "Trinity" in the *Reasoning* book, invite the audience to illustrate how comparing translations can be helpful in teaching the truth.

15 min: "Our Faith Moves Us to Good Works."* When discussing paragraph 2, briefly interview a zealous Witness. Have the publisher express how witnessing to others both demonstrates and strengthens his or her faith.

Song 56 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	123	119.6	105.8	53.2	5.3
Pios.	88,617	62.3	43.3	20.6	1.8
Aux. Pios.	16,055	48.5	36.2	13.8	1.1
Pubs.	857,101	9.0	8.1	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	961,896			Baptized:	1,525

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A Special Interchange of Encouragement

1 Not a day passes without Jehovah's people facing tests of their faith. Knowing he has a short period of time, the Devil is making a final onslaught to break our integrity to Jehovah. (Rev. 12:12) It is vital that we "go on acquiring power in the Lord and in the mightiness of his strength" so that we "may be able to resist in the wicked day and, after [we] have done all things thoroughly, to stand firm." —Eph. 6:10, 13.

2 Gathering with fellow believers is a provision from Jehovah to help us acquire power. The apostle Paul appreciated this. He longed to be in the company of his Christian brothers so that they could "be encouraged together" and "be made firm." (Rom. 1:11, 12, ftn.) To fortify us in doing God's will, the Governing Body has lovingly arranged to give us the opportunity to benefit from an interchange of encouragement at the upcoming "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Convention.

3 **Be There to Benefit:** Make it your goal to be present for all three days. We 'benefit ourselves' by arriving before the first song and remaining through our heartfelt "Amen" at the closing prayer. (Isa. 48:17, 18) Many will need to arrange their work schedule well in advance so that they have the time available to attend all three days. Granted, it may not be easy to get your employer to give you the time off, but we have Jehovah's assurance that he will help us to do his will. (1 John 5:14, 15) If we have not done so already, now is the time to make definite arrangements for transportation and lodging, not leaving anything to chance. We can be confident that Jehovah will bless our efforts to attend all three days.—Prov. 10:22.

4 **Anticipate the Encouragement:** Have you ever left a district convention, saying: "That was the best one ever!" Why might you have felt that way? It is because as imperfect humans we can gradually become worn down, finding ourselves in need of spiritual encouragement. (Isa. 40:30) One sister observed: "This system wears me down, and the conventions refocus my spiritual outlook, giving me the spiritual boost that I need. It seems as if the encouragement comes at just the time I need it the most." Likely you have experienced similar feelings.

5 We receive needed encouragement not only by way of talks and interviews but also through other rich features of our conventions. One brother commented: "It is the clear, practical application of Bible principles that I really appreciate. Of course, the dramas are invaluable in showing how we can benefit from past examples, both good and bad. The releases are something I always look forward to, and I enjoy them long after returning home."

6 Conventions are a vital provision from Jehovah during these "critical times hard to deal with." (2 Tim. 3:1) They help us heed the inspired counsel: "Stay awake, stand firm in the faith, carry on as men, grow mighty." (1 Cor. 16:13) Therefore, let us be determined to attend every session and enjoy a rich interchange of encouragement at our "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Convention!

Plan to Attend All Three Days

- ■ Ask for time off from work.
- ■ Reserve lodging at the convention city.
- ■ Arrange transportation to the convention.

"Always Pursue What Is Good"

[1] The Christian way of life involves 'always pursuing what is good toward all people.' (1 Thess. 5:15) When attending our district conventions, we have many opportunities to do something good for others. On those occasions, we are in the public eye, and all who come in contact with us form opinions about us based on the way we treat them. To preserve a fine reputation as Jehovah's Witnesses, we need to show by our actions that we "honor men of all sorts." (1 Pet. 2:17) That includes "keeping an eye, not in personal interest upon just [our] own matters, but also in personal interest upon those of the others." (Phil. 2:4) Consider how this applies to the convention rooming arrangement.

[2] Have you made your hotel reservations yet? (1) Since the hotel wants to fill all available rooms, do not reserve more rooms than you plan to use. (2) Do not expect the hotel to save your room unless you make the appropriate deposit in advance of your arrival. (3) When you check in at the hotel, display patience and respect toward the hotel staff as they endeavor to accommodate you. (4) If a complimentary breakfast is included, do not abuse this provision, which is made for hotel guests only. (5) Abide by all the hotel's rules regarding the use of its premises. (6) Leave a customary tip for the housekeeper.

[3] **Teaching Children How to Do Good:** On occasion, children who have been left without proper adult direction at hotels have caused problems. (Prov. 29:15) In some cases, parents were involved in other activities and left their children unsupervised in the room, at the swimming pool, or elsewhere in the hotel. Some children became so rowdy that the management found it necessary to restrict them from using certain facilities or had to close the pool or other recreational areas altogether. This disturbed and inconvenienced other hotel guests, both Witnesses and non-Witnesses.

[4] Parents, prior to the convention, it would be helpful if you spend some time reviewing with your children the kind of Christian behavior that is expected of them at all times and in all places. (Eph. 6:4) For example, point out to them that genuine Christian love "does not behave indecently, does not look for its own interests, does not become provoked." (1 Cor. 13:5) Adults can reinforce these words by setting the right example for all to see. Children, you can pursue what is good by obeying your parents, showing respect for hotel property, and being considerate of those around you. (Col. 3:20) As we unitedly strive to do good toward all, we "adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things."—Titus 2:10.

[5] Our fine conduct has a positive effect not only on observers in general but also on those who have been critical of us for one reason or another. In everything we do at the convention and throughout the convention city—whether walking on the street, eating in a restaurant, relaxing at the hotel, or taking advantage of opportunities to give an informal witness—our Christian speech and actions should prove that we want to pursue what is good.

Please Remember:

- Be patient and respectful toward the hotel staff.
- Observe hotel rules, to the benefit of all guests.
- Do not abuse complimentary breakfast provisions.
- Properly monitor the actions of your children.

Satisfy Your Spiritual Need

[1] Our upcoming "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Convention affords us a wonderful opportunity to satisfy our spiritual need. Like a wholesome physical meal, the program promises to nourish us spiritually "with the words of the faith." (1 Tim. 4:6) It will enable us to draw closer to Jehovah. And we can expect to receive counsel and encouragement to help us cope with trials in our lives. Jehovah assures us: "I shall make you have insight and instruct you in the way you should go. I will give advice with my eye upon you." (Ps. 32:8) How blessed we are to have his loving guidance in our lives! Consider some practical steps we can take to get the most benefit from the convention program.

[2] **We Need to Prepare Our Heart:** Each of us has a responsibility to safeguard his own figurative heart. (Prov. 4:23) This requires that we exercise self-discipline and that we be honest with ourselves. The convention is a time to meditate on our relationship with Jehovah, a time to 'peer into the perfect law that belongs to freedom.' To prepare our heart to 'accept the implanting of the word,' we should beseech Jehovah to search us through, to identify in us any "painful way" needing correction, and to lead us in "the way of time indefinite." —Jas. 1:21, 25; Ps. 139:23, 24.

[3] **Listen and Meditate:** Jesus commended Mary for paying rapt attention to his words, saying: "Mary chose the good portion, and it will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:39, 42) If we have the same mental disposition, we will not allow trivial matters to distract us. We will make sure that we are seated and attentive during the entire program. We will avoid talking or walking about unnecessarily and will be careful not to distract others with cellular phones, pagers, cameras, and camcorders.

[4] When we listen to the talks, it is good to take *brief* notes to help us analyze how the subject is being developed. We should connect what we hear with what we already know. This will help us to grasp and retain the material. When reviewing our notes, we need to do so with a view to applying the material. Each one of us can well ask: 'How does this affect my relationship with Jehovah? What adjustments do I need to make in my life? How can I apply this information in my dealings with others? How can I use it in my ministry?' Discuss with others the points that we especially appreciate. Doing these things will aid us in keeping Jehovah's sayings 'in the midst of our heart.'—Prov. 4:20, 21.

Meditate on What You Hear:

- How does it affect my relationship with Jehovah?
- How does it influence my dealings with others?
- How can I apply it in my life and in my ministry?

[5] **Let Us Apply What We Learn:** After attending a district convention, one delegate said: "The program was of a very personal nature, motivating one to examine his heart condition and that of his family, and to provide loving Scriptural help as needed. It has made me more aware of my obligation to give more assistance to the congregation." Likely many of us have felt the same way. But it is not enough for us simply to go away feeling upbuilt and refreshed. Jesus said: "If you know these things, happy you are if you *do* them." (John 13:17) We must diligently put into practice the points that apply to us personally. (Phil. 4:9) This is the key to fully satisfying our spiritual need.

Modesty in Dress and Grooming

1 "All the men, even young boys, wear ties. All the women and girls, both adolescents and little ones, wear either a dress or a skirt. There is not a pair of jeans or an opened collar to be seen. Everyone here is radiant." So said a news report. What sort of crowd was it describing? A political rally? A sporting event? A rock concert? Far from it! It was describing a group of brothers and sisters at a large district convention last summer.

2 At another convention city, a newspaper reporter gave this description of the crowd of Witnesses: "All men are clean and wear suit and tie. The women dress modestly but with elegance." A second observer, a security guard, stated: "You are well-behaved, respectful, clean, and tidy people. What I see is beautiful. In this filthy world, you managed to move aside the dirt!" What fine testimonials in our behalf! Are we not thankful that our brotherhood could be so well spoken of? Of course, all in the crowd contributed to the good reports by their exemplary appearance.

How to Glorify Jehovah:

- ■ Dress in a manner that befits a minister of God.
- ■ Avoid styles that follow the spirit of the world.
- ■ Demonstrate modesty, which reflects soundness of mind.

3 We have become known worldwide for being distinctly different in our appearance. (Mal. 3:18) Why? Because we follow the Scriptural admonition to "adorn [ourselves] in well-arranged dress, with modesty and soundness of mind, . . . in the way that befits [those] professing to reverence God." —1 Tim. 2:9, 10.

4 **What Do You Indicate by Your Dress and Grooming?** The clothing that we wear and the way that we wear it make a definite statement about us—our beliefs, attitude, and intentions. The styles that we choose state who we are and what we stand for. We must never promote the debased thinking and conduct that is popularized by the world. Our concern is not whether a certain style is extremely fashionable but whether it is appropriate for one professing to be a minister of God. (Rom. 12:2) Rather than choose a look that flaunts an independent spirit or that suggests an immoral life-style, we want to show that we truly "glorify God." —1 Pet. 2:12.

5 At times, one who is new, inexperienced, or spiritually weak might accept whatever the world promotes in dress and grooming without first considering how it reflects on Jehovah and his organization. All of us might undertake some self-scrutiny to see if we have been influenced by the world's thinking. We could approach a respected, spiritually mature brother or sister and ask for an honest observation about our style of clothing and grooming and then seriously weigh the suggestions given.

6 Some readily agree that they should be careful about how they dress while in attendance at the convention. But then they lower their standard during leisure activities after the sessions. Maintain the high standard that befits Christian ministers. (2 Cor. 6:3, 4) Wherever we go in public, our convention badge cards along with our appropriate dress and grooming identify us as Jehovah's Witnesses. Hence, our clothing should always be well-arranged and modest, indicating that we are "no part of the world."—John 15:19.

7 Let us do all we can at this year's "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Convention to prove that we are "a people holy to Jehovah [our] God." The good impression that results will add to Jehovah's "praise and reputation and beauty."—Deut. 26:19.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is found on return visits, include the person on a magazine route. Offer the *Require* brochure, with a view to starting Bible studies. **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* When householders have these publications, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies.* The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate.

■ Beginning with the May literature shipment, the annual supply of congregation forms is being shipped to congregations as forms become available. Instructions regarding forms distribution will appear on the shipment packing list. When there is more than one congregation in a Kingdom Hall auditorium, the literature coordinator should make sure that each congregation receives its supply of forms as soon as they arrive.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ Donations made by check and put in the local Kingdom Hall contribution boxes for the worldwide work and the Kingdom Hall Fund should be made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Office of Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ The presiding overseer should telephone the Magazine Department at Wallkill if he does not receive the congregation's supply of *Our Kingdom Ministry* by the 25th of the month preceding the issue date.

■ DISTRICT CONVENTION UPDATE: The five Oakland, California, district conventions listed as "tentative" in the February 15, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower* have been definitely relocated to the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave., San Francisco, on the same dates.

■ New Publications Available:
Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I—Large Print —Croatian
My Book of Bible Stories (Small size) —Chinese, Chinese (Simplified)
New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures (Deluxe pocket edition; available with black or maroon leather cover) —Chinese
Sing Praises to Jehovah (Large songbook) —Bulgarian
Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist? —Russian
Watch Tower Publications Index 1999 —Dutch
What Does God Require of Us? —Tsonga, Uzbek
What Happens to Us When We Die? —Hebrew
Would You Like to Know More About the Bible? (Tract No. 26) —Armenian, Bengali, Cebuano, Czech, East Armenian, Georgian, Hiligaynon, Iloko, Japanese, Norwegian, Samoan, Serbian, Slovenian, Tagalog, Thai
You Can Be God's Friend! —Dakota

■ New Audiocassettes Available:
Appreciating Our Spiritual Heritage (Drama, single cassette) —Dutch
Keep Your Eye Simple (Drama, single cassette) —Portuguese
Psalms (set of five cassettes) —Norwegian
The Second of Kings (set of two cassettes) —Dutch

■ New Braille Publications Available:
Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education (four volumes) —Grade-two English
Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education (six volumes) —Grade-one Spanish

Note: Braille publications should be requested through the congregation. A separate Literature Request Form (S-14) is to be submitted for Braille material, including the name and address of the Braille reader. Please mark it **ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK.**

■ New Videocassettes Available:
Our Whole Association of Brothers —Greek, Polish
What Does God Require of Us?—On Videocassette —Colombian Sign Language

QUESTION BOX

■ Why is there a need to exercise caution when witnessing by mail?

Giving a witness through the mail is a time-tested method of sharing the good news. Recent developments on the world scene, however, have made people cautious about opening unfamiliar mail. Envelopes from unknown sources or with no return address are often viewed with suspicion, especially if they are handwritten and bulky. Householders may discard such mail without opening it. How can we prevent this from happening?

If possible, both the letter and the envelope should be typewritten. The envelope should be addressed to the householder by name. Do not address it to "Occupant." In addition, always provide a return address. If it is not advisable to show your personal address, give your name and the Kingdom Hall address. Do not send letters anonymously. *Never use the address of the branch office.*—See the November 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

Further suggestions and a sample letter can be found in *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education*, pages 71-3. These guidelines will help us to use letters effectively to reach others with the good news.

Does Your Congregation Have a Large Territory?

1 From the cities in Judea to the rurals of Galilee, Jesus gave an intensive witness throughout the large territory of ancient Israel. (Mark 1:38, 39; Luke 23:5) We too must reach as many people as we can with the good news. (Mark 13:10) However, this can be a challenge. Why?

2 Many congregations in the United States have territory that is mostly rural, covering hundreds of square miles. Foreign-language congregations may work in populous metropolitan areas, searching for people who speak their language. What can we do to help the people living in such extensive territories to learn the truth about Jehovah, Jesus, and the Kingdom?

3 **Plan Carefully:** The service overseer and the territory servant need to coordinate the congregation's efforts to accomplish the most good. Perhaps special Saturdays can be scheduled when most are able to devote a full day to the work. When working distant territories, plan to spend longer days in field service if possible, taking along a lunch to enjoy at midday. You might meet for service earlier than usual to allow time for travel to the territory or hold the meeting for field service near the area to be worked. Keep car groups small so that all will stay busy. Arrange to work rural areas during seasons when weather and road conditions are favorable.

4 Those working foreign-language territories can save valuable time by having an up-to-date list of names and addresses and a current map. Organize territories so that a service group can call on all the addresses in a general area.

5 Be sure to take along an adequate supply of literature. If the territory is seldom worked, it may be appropriate to leave a tract or an older magazine at not-at-homes. If the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* is available in your language, offer it to everyone you meet and leave one at not-at-homes.

6 **Cooperate Fully:** Working a large territory requires the cooperation of everyone in the congregation. When extensive driving is necessary, those traveling together can share gasoline expenses. Good judgment should be exercised when you find householders who are willing to talk. Be ever conscious of the need to reach all in the territory, and be considerate of those waiting in your car group. If you desire to continue a conversation with an interested person at length, could arrangements be made so that the rest of the group is not detained?

7 Make definite arrangements to follow up all interest. Besides the address, try to obtain the interested person's phone number so that you can make contact and give a further witness by telephone. If rural roads are not named or houses are not numbered, carefully draw a map or write a description of how to find the interested one on the return visit.

8 What a privilege is ours to carry out Jesus' instructions: "Into whatever city or village you enter, search out who in it is deserving"! (Matt. 10:11) Surely Jehovah will bless your efforts as you willingly give of yourself in this most rewarding work!

What to Say About the Magazines

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THE WATCHTOWER May 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Do you think it is possible to get to know God? [Allow for response.] You will agree that it is difficult to believe in someone whom we know very little about. The Bible, in fact, encourages us to seek God. [Read Acts 17:27.] These articles show us how we can get to know God better."

Awake! May 22

"World leaders have experimented with many ideas in an effort to solve our problems. One new strategy is known as globalization. In this magazine, you can read about how this new effort might already be affecting your life. You can also read about a global solution foretold in the Bible." Then read Matthew 6:9, 10.

THE WATCHTOWER June 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Recent events are causing many to wonder why innocent victims meet an untimely death. Have you thought about why people die? [Allow for response, and then turn to chart on page 7.] Would you like to see what the Bible has to say about one of these common myths?" If possible, read a cited scripture.

Awake! June 8

"Many people feel that religion and science are in conflict. Some even feel that it is impossible for someone who is scientifically minded to believe in God. How do you feel about this? [Allow for response.] *Awake!* discusses this subject in a most enlightening way."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 6/02 Vol. 45, No. 6

Sowing Bountifully Brings Rich Blessings

1 All of us look forward to the fulfillment of the grand promises contained in God's Word. Even now, Jehovah makes available many blessings that add delight to our lives. The extent to which we personally benefit, however, depends in large measure on the effort we put forth. As the apostle Paul put it, "he that sows bountifully will also reap bountifully." (2 Cor. 9:6) Consider two areas in which this principle applies.

2 **Our Personal Ministry:** Sharing the good news with people when it is within our power to give a witness brings many rewards. (Prov. 3:27, 28) Commendably, many are sowing bountifully by expanding their share in the ministry, including auxiliary or regular pioneering. All of us can sow bountifully by conscientiously returning to cultivate all interest that is found and by offering a Bible study whenever the opportunity presents itself. (Rom. 12:11) Exerting ourselves in these ways results in upbuilding experiences and increased joy in our ministry.

3 **Supporting Kingdom Interests:** Paul made his comment about 'sowing bountifully' in connection with material giving. (2 Cor. 9:6, 7, 11, 13) Today, there is much we can do in a physical and material way to support Kingdom interests. We can assist in the construction of Kingdom Halls and Assembly Halls. We can also make ourselves available to share in cleaning and maintaining these centers for true worship. In addition, we can contribute financially for local congregation expenses as well as for the worldwide Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. As all of us do our part, how we rejoice to see Jehovah's abundant blessing upon this God-ordained work!—Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38.

4 God's Word exhorts us "to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be liberal, ready to share." As we heed that admonition, we enjoy rich blessings now. At the same time, we are "safely treasuring up for [ourselves] a fine foundation for the future [and] the real life" to come.—1 Tim. 6:18, 19.

Do You *"Want to"* Help Others?

1 Jesus truly cared about people. When a leper entreated him for help, Jesus stretched out his hand, touched the man, and said: *"I want to.* Be made clean." (Mark 1:40-42) In what ways can we imitate Jesus' attitude toward helping others?

2 **Interested People:** Each member of the congregation plays a part in helping interested ones to become worshipers of Jehovah. When new ones come to meetings, greet them and get acquainted. Look for ways to encourage them. Commend them for the comments they make. Express appreciation for their efforts to apply Bible principles in their lives. Help them to see the prospects they have for making true friends within the congregation.

3 **Fellow Believers:** "Those related to us in the faith" especially deserve our help in a variety of ways. (Gal. 6:10) Many contend with health problems. By making an encouraging visit, you can provide vital association and perhaps also assist in practical ways. Some may be facing other difficulties in their lives. Show your concern by taking the time to listen to them and build them up. (1 Thess. 5:14) The elders too need our cooperation as they carry out their responsibilities. (Heb. 13:17) By displaying a willing and helpful spirit, we can "become a strengthening aid" to our fellow believers.—Col. 4:11.

4 **Family Members:** We should also strive to imitate Jesus' concern for people within our own family circle. Deep concern moves parents to 'go on bringing up their children in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah.' (Eph. 6:4) Children can do their part by promptly getting ready when it is time for family study, congregation meetings, or field service. Grown children can reflect Jesus' compassion by tenderly helping their parents cope with the difficulties brought on by advancing age. In these and other ways, all of us can "practice godly devotion in [our] own household."—1 Tim. 5:4.

5 As we imitate Jesus in helping others, we may be able to alleviate problems and to draw our family and the congregation closer together. Most important of all, we bring honor to Jehovah, "the Father of tender mercies."—2 Cor. 1:3.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting June 10

Song 58

15 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to view the video *Our Whole Association of Brothers* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of June 24. Using the suggestions on page 4, demonstrate separately how to present the June 15 *Watchtower* and the June 22 *Awake!* In each demonstration, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I'm not interested in religion."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 16-17.

10 min: Question Box. Read entire article and cited scriptures. Then make additional comments, enlarging on other points in the Question Box in the March 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: "Sowing Bountifully Brings Rich Blessings."* Include comments based on the December 1, 1992, *Watchtower,* pages 15-16, paragraphs 14-17.

Song 220 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 17

Song 136

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Be Content With What You Have."* Emphasize the Scriptural basis for the counsel, reading and discussing as many of the cited texts as time allows.

Song 197 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 24

Song 52

8 min: Local announcements. A married couple working together in service demonstrate how to use the suggestions on page 4 to offer the July 1 and July 8 magazines. The wife features *The Watchtower,* and the husband features the *Awake!*

12 min: Relate or reenact experiences from local publishers (1) witnessing to various ethnic groups or people speaking other languages or (2) witnessing in settings other than house-to-house and street work. In preparation for next week's Service Meeting, encourage everyone to find a presentation to use with one of the brochures that will be offered in July and August.—See the box "Other Publications," in the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

25 min: "Why We Love *Our Whole Association of Brothers.*" Get right into an audience discussion of the *Whole Association* video, using the questions that are provided.

Song 95 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 1

Song 83

15 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in their field service reports for June. Ask publishers to tell which brochure they plan to offer during July and what presentation they will use.

15 min: *You Can Be God's Friend!* Talk and audience discussion. Point out features of this brochure that make it a powerful teaching aid to help children and others with limited education or reading ability to learn about Jehovah. Discuss examples of its simple and logical explanations. (See lessons 2, 8, and 12.) Show how the pictures can be used to reach a student's heart. Suggest ways that this brochure can be used to good advantage. Parents should study it with their young children. Encourage everyone to offer it in the ministry whenever appropriate.

15 min: "Do You *'Want to'* Help Others?"* Encourage everyone in the congregation to have a helpful spirit.

Song 156 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

QUESTION BOX

■ What standard of dress and grooming should we observe when visiting Bethel homes and branch facilities?

When we visit Bethel, whether to tour the facility or to visit with members of the Bethel family, "our dress, grooming and conduct should be similar to what is expected of us when attending meetings for worship at the Kingdom Hall." (*om* 131) However, it has been noted that when visiting the branch offices, some brothers and sisters tend to be extremely casual in their dress. That is not appropriate when visiting these facilities. Our appearance should be exemplary, well-arranged, and modest, reflecting the decency and dignity that befit servants of Jehovah God.—1 Tim. 2:9, 10.

This is especially important when visiting Bethel homes and branch facilities because they attract the attention of many non-Witness observers. Such onlookers may form opinions about God's people and his organization based on what they observe. It would be good to speak with Bible students and others who may be visiting to remind them of the importance of giving attention to proper dress and grooming. The Bethel family will appreciate your doing this.

As Christian ministers, we must be careful that our appearance does not give any cause for stumbling. (2 Cor. 6:3, 4) Rather, by our proper decorum, may we always "adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things."—Titus 2:10.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* When householders already have these publications, offer an appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?, Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!, "Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?, The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever, The Government That Will Bring Paradise, What Happens to Us When We Die?, What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?,* and *When Someone You Love Dies.* The brochures *A Book for All People, Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?, Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?,* and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*

- DISTRICT CONVENTION CHANGE: Because of circumstances beyond our control, the dates for the district convention in Uniondale, New York, on June 28-30, 2002, have been changed to September 1-3, 2002, on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. It should be noted that Monday, September 2, is a national holiday.

- The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following Saturdays: September 14, 2002 (Gilead graduation); October 5, 2002 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania); March 8, 2003 (Gilead graduation); and May 10, 2003 (spring cleaning). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

- *Awake!* in Urdu is being changed from a monthly to a quarterly edition, beginning with the April-June 2002 issue.

- New Publications Available:

"All Scripture"—Authentic and Beneficial (Brochure for use in 2002 Theocratic Ministry School) —Samoan
"All Scripture"—Authentic and Beneficial, Brochure 1 (Brochure for use in 2002 Theocratic Ministry School) —Russian, Ukrainian
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life—Large Print —Spanish

- New Audiocassettes Available:

Respect Jehovah's Authority—On Audiocassette (Drama, single cassette) —Spanish

- New Videocassettes Available:

Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union —Russian
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life —Portuguese, Thai
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived—On Videocassette, Volume 8 —American Sign Language

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

	Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**136**	**123.4**	**107.6**	**58.7**	**5.2**
Pios.	**88,689**	**69.2**	**48.1**	**23.4**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**126,378**	**48.2**	**37.1**	**12.2**	**0.8**
Pubs.	**778,902**	**9.8**	**8.6**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**994,105**	Baptized: **1,393**			

It was especially encouraging to see a total of 994,105 publishers reporting for the month of March. This represents a 5.1-percent increase over last year's average. In addition, 19,852,438 hours were spent in the ministry, and 126,378 were able to share as auxiliary pioneers.

Why We Love *Our Whole Association of Brothers*

In today's loveless world, how can we keep our love for our spiritual brothers burning brightly? (1 Pet. 2:17) How can we show others that our genuine, global brotherhood really exists? (Matt. 23:8) By means of the video *Our Whole Association of Brothers.* It shows the reasons why we love one another. See if you can answer these questions:

(1) What three activities do we share in common with our worldwide brotherhood? **(2)** How are our brothers showing their determination to preach (a) in the Alaskan wilderness, (b) in the vast harbors of Europe, and (c) in the dense forests of Peru? **(3)** What is an especially effective witnessing tool? **(4)** Why should we never feel that preaching is just an ordinary work? **(5)** Give examples of how Jehovah's Witnesses have comforted and supported one another in times of distress—earthquakes, hurricanes, and civil wars. (See the comments of Takao on page 23 in the August 22, 1995, *Awake!* and of Kotoyo on page 20 in the October 22, 1996, *Awake!*) **(6)** In what practical ways can all of us demonstrate the great identifying mark of our Christian brotherhood? (John 13:35) **(7)** How highly should we value our congregation meetings? **(8)** How does having a Kingdom Hall in which to meet affect those who have not previously had one? **(9)** How did our brothers in Eastern Europe and Russia survive spiritually when under ban? **(10)** Even now, what extraordinary effort do many Witnesses put forth to attend conventions, and why? How has this touched your heart? **(11)** Why are you determined to worship together in unity, to help others in times of need, and to preach faithfully whenever and however you can? **(12)** Why would it be good to have a personal copy of this video and show it to as many interested people as possible?

Be Content With What You Have

[1] The Scriptures admonish us to provide materially for our household, but this should not become our main focus in life. Spiritual things must come first. (Matt. 6:33; 1 Tim. 5:8) Finding the proper balance is a challenge in these “critical times hard to deal with.” (2 Tim. 3:1) What will help us to do so?

[2] **Adopt the Bible’s Viewpoint:** God’s Word warns us that the pursuit of riches can cause spiritual ruin. (Eccl. 5:10; Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 6:9, 10) At this crucial hour, it would be disastrous for any of us to become so preoccupied with secular employment or financial concerns that we relegate spiritual activities—meetings, study, and service—to a secondary place in our lives. (Luke 21:34-36) In contrast, the Bible counsels: “Having sustenance and covering, we shall be content with these things.”—1 Tim. 6:7, 8.

[3] This does not mean that Christians are required to live in self-imposed poverty. But it helps us to identify what our material needs really are—food, clothing, and shelter adequate for where we live. If we have the necessities of life, we should not endlessly pursue a higher standard of living. When contemplating making a purchase or taking on additional work, we do well to ask ourselves, ‘Is this really necessary?’ Doing so will help us to heed the inspired counsel: “Let your manner of life be free of the love of money, while you are content with the present things.”—Heb. 13:5.

[4] If we trust in Jehovah, he will bless us. (Prov. 3:5, 6) Though we have to work hard to obtain the daily necessities, we do not center our lives on those things. Whether we have little or much, we rely on Jehovah to satisfy our needs. (Phil. 4:11-13) As a result, we enjoy godly contentment along with many other blessings.

[5] **Imitate the Faith of Others:** A single parent who was raising her daughter in the way of the truth simplified her life progressively. Although she enjoyed the comforts of her home, she moved to a smaller house and later to an apartment. This enabled her to reduce her work hours so that she could devote more time to the ministry. After her daughter was grown and married, the mother took an early retirement, even though this meant a further reduction in her income. Our sister is now in her seventh year as a regular pioneer and has no regrets concerning the material sacrifices she has made to put Kingdom interests first in her life.

[6] An elder and his wife pioneered for many years while bringing up three children. As a family, they learned to be content with satisfying their *needs* rather than indulging their *wants.* The brother comments: “We had to live more simply. Though we’ve had some difficult times, Jehovah has always provided what we needed. . . . When I see my family putting spiritual interests first like this, I feel that everything is as it should be, and I have a sense of accomplishment.” His wife adds: “When I see [my husband] busy with spiritual matters, I feel a deep inner contentment.” The children too are glad that their parents decided to serve Jehovah full-time.

[7] For all those who choose such a course of godly devotion over the pursuit of material things, the Bible promises rich blessings both now and in the life to come.—1 Tim. 4:8.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER June 15
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“Do you think that we will ever see an end to problems like these? [Read opening quotation of first article, and allow for response.] God’s inspired Word reassures us that such problems will soon end. [Read Psalm 72:12-14.] This issue of *The Watchtower* explains how this will be accomplished.”

Awake! June 22

“Do you think that real freedom will ever be possible for everyone on earth? [Allow for response.] Notice this beautiful promise of God. [Read Romans 8:21.] For that promise to come true, all slavery would have to end, wouldn’t it? This issue of *Awake!* shows how that will come about.”

THE WATCHTOWER July 1
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“Millions of people use images or icons in their worship, while millions of others think that doing so is wrong. Have you ever wondered what God thinks? [Allow for response. Then read John 4:24.] These articles show how the use of icons got started and what the Bible says about image worship.”

Awake! July 8

“The Bible prophesied that there would be difficult times during the last days. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1, 3.] All over the world, crime rates give evidence of this. How much worse conditions would be if there were no police! This issue of *Awake!* discusses the challenges that the police face worldwide.”

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 7/02 Vol. 45, No. 7

Gathering People Out of All Languages

[1] God's Word is being fulfilled! People "out of all the languages of the nations" are embracing true worship. (Zech. 8:23) How are Jehovah's Witnesses helping individuals of all 'tribes, peoples, and tongues' to come into a clean standing before Jehovah, with the prospect of surviving "the great tribulation"?—Rev. 7:9, 14.

[2] **God's Organization Responds:** The Governing Body has arranged for Bible literature to be made available in some 380 languages so that people in all the earth can understand clearly the import of the good news. Preparing and publishing literature in so many languages is a vast undertaking. It involves assembling teams of qualified translators and providing them with the support they need to translate our literature into all these languages, as well as printing and shipping the material. The key role, however, is played by the individual Kingdom publishers, who bring the Bible's lifesaving message to the people.

[3] **Accepting the Challenge:** Sizable foreign-language populations are now found in many places. To reach these people with the good news, more and more of God's servants are endeavoring to learn Chinese, Russian, Spanish, or some other language common in their area. Others are learning American Sign Language. In the United States alone, there are some 2,900 congregations and 240 groups preaching in 38 languages other than English. Some who never heard of Jehovah or knew nothing about the Bible are accepting the truth of God's Word.—Rom. 15:21.

[4] Could we exert ourselves more fully in declaring the good news to people in our territory who are from another culture? (Col. 1:25) Many congregations are organizing the preaching work in the local foreign community. Publishers first learn enough of the language to give a simple presentation, such as: "Hello. Here is good news for you. [Then offer a tract or brochure available in that language.] Good-bye." Jehovah is truly blessing such small beginnings!

[5] The Kingdom message appeals to people of all backgrounds and languages. Let us seize the opportunity to share it with them.

New Circuit Assembly Program

[1] To stand firm in the faith in an unstable world, we must trust in Jehovah. What does this mean in practical terms? How does trusting in Jehovah affect our personal and family life? How does it help us resist the influence of Satan's world? The circuit assembly program for the 2003 service year answers these questions. Its theme is "Trust in Jehovah and Do Good."—Ps. 37:3.

[2] Our trust in Jehovah is not reserved for special occasions or times of dire need. It permeates our daily lives. This is emphasized in the opening talk, "Trust in Jehovah at All Times." (Ps. 62:8) The four-part symposium "Manifesting Trust in Jehovah" will show us how to find and apply Bible-based information that can help us to build a successful marriage, to handle problems that arise in the family circle, and to meet our material needs.

[3] Satan's world tries to foist on us a twisted view of what is right and wrong and cause confusion as to what is important and unimportant. (Isa. 5:20) The talks "Guard Against the Vanities of Life" and "Shun the Bad—Be Doers of Good" will reinforce our resolve to uphold Jehovah's lofty standards.—Amos 5:14.

[4] When Jehovah brings an end to the present wicked system of things, God's servants will need to trust in him fully. This is highlighted in the public address, "Deliverance From World Distress Is Near." After that, we will be invited to examine ourselves in the part "Will You Be Counted Worthy of the Kingdom of God?" The program concludes with an exhortation to "Trust in Jehovah's Promises."

[5] A highlight of every assembly is the baptism talk. Any who wish to be baptized should tell the presiding overseer as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

[6] In these uncertain times, Jehovah is the only real source of confidence and stability. (Ps. 118:8, 9) May all of us strengthen our trust in him by being present for the entire circuit assembly program.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting July 8

Song 201

15 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 4, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the July 15 *Watchtower* and the July 22 *Awake!* In each demonstration, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "We are already Christians here."—See *Reasoning* book, page 19.

10 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder, making local application of the material.

20 min: Getting Organized to Witness Informally. Audience discussion of *Our Ministry* book, pages 93-4. Using suggestions on the front page of the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, briefly demonstrate two or three ways to witness informally to a stranger, a neighbor, a relative, or an acquaintance.

Song 139 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 15

Song 144

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Good Reasons to Use the Bible in Our Ministry. Talk and audience discussion. Jesus knew the Scriptures and referred to them liberally when teaching. (Luke 24:27, 44-47) What he taught was not of his own originality. (John 7:16-18) It is important that we too use God's Word. It has more power than anything we might personally say. (John 12: 49, 50; Heb. 4:12) Sincere ones are drawn by the comfort and hope the Scriptures offer. Make it your goal to read at least one Bible text in your presentations. Point out that scriptures are incorporated in this month's suggested magazine presentations. Entertain some comments from the audience on how they have been using the Bible in the ministry and the effect this has had on themselves and on those to whom they preached.

Song 215 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 22

Song 47

10 min: Local announcements. A parent and child working together in service demonstrate how to use the suggestions on page 4 to offer the August 1 and August 8 magazines. One features *The Watchtower,* and the other features the *Awake!* Encourage parents to train their children progressively in the ministry.

17 min: What Would You Say to a Person Who Asks About Islam? Talk and demonstration. Using the book *Mankind's Search for God,* chapter 12, briefly explain the parallel between the Bible and the Koran. (See the box on page 285.) Show the contrast between Islamic teaching on the soul (pages 297-300) and the Bible's explanation. (See the footnote on page 299.) Using the *Reasoning* book, pages 375-9, demonstrate how to explain to a newly interested person what the Bible says about the soul.

18 min: How Can I Avoid Dangers on the Internet? Talk and audience discussion based on the January 22, 2000, *Awake!,* pages 19-21. Point out the pitfalls of unrestricted use of the Internet, and explain how to avoid becoming ensnared. Invite audience to comment on how they have benefited from applying this counsel.

Song 61 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 29

Song 54

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for July.

10 min: "New Circuit Assembly Program." A talk. Announce date of the next circuit assembly. Urge all to be present and attentive to the program. Encourage unbaptized publishers to think about qualifying for baptism. Make a special effort to invite Bible students.

25 min: "Be Harmoniously Joined Together."* When discussing paragraph 3, include comments on April 22, 2000, *Awake!,* pages 9-10. With paragraph 4, include comments on April 1, 1995, *Watchtower,* pages 16-17, paragraphs 4-6.

Song 81 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 5

Song 38

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: "Gathering People Out of All Languages."* Include comments on April 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* page 24. If applicable, briefly explain what is being done to assist those in the local territory who speak foreign languages, and demonstrate the presentation in paragraph 4.

15 min: Local experiences. Invite audience to relate some upbuilding experiences in connection with attending the district convention, auxiliary pioneering, or sharing in other spiritual activities thus far during the summer.

Song 184 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	136	123.0	116.1	57.5	5.3
Pios.	86,296	66.8	48.3	22.0	1.9
Aux. Pios.	51,217	49.0	39.4	12.6	0.9
Pubs.	838,303	9.4	8.5	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	975,952		Baptized: 2,771		

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies.

■ Beginning the week of September 16, 2002, we will study *Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II* in the Congregation Book Study.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Safeguard Your Christian Identity!"

■ *The Watchtower* in Hiri Motu is being changed from a semimonthly to a monthly edition.

■ *The Watchtower* in Kirundi is being changed from a monthly to a semimonthly edition.

■ *The Watchtower* is now available in Assamese and Mizo as monthly editions.

■ New Publications Available:

"All Scripture"—Authentic and Beneficial, Brochure 2 (Brochure for use in 2002 Theocratic Ministry School) —Russian
Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education —Hebrew, Iloko
Do You Have an Immortal Spirit? (Tract No. 25) —Palauan, Tamil, Trukese
Hellfire—Is It Part of Divine Justice? (for Muslims) (Tract No. 74) —Dutch, Italian
How to Find the Road to Paradise (for Muslims) —Macedonian, Uzbek
Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I —Gujarati, Hindi
My Book of Bible Stories —Ewe
The Government That Will Bring Paradise —Kurmanji Kurdish (Roman script)
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived —Kinyarwanda
The Greatest Name (for Muslims) (Tract No. 72) —Dutch
Who Are Jehovah's Witnesses? (for Muslims) (Tract No. 73) —Dutch
You Can Be God's Friend! —Yoruba

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It —English
Warning Examples for Our Day (Drama, single cassette) —Portuguese

■ New Compact Discs Available:

Respect Jehovah's Authority (Drama, single disc) —Spanish

■ New DVDs Available:

What Does God Require of Us? —American Sign Language

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Our Whole Association of Brothers —Dutch, Hungarian, Thai
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived, Volume 9 —American Sign Language
United by Divine Teaching —Thai
Warning Examples for Our Day —Spanish
Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends? —Chinese, Dutch

QUESTION BOX

■ What should we bear in mind when using cellular telephones and electronic pagers?

Such devices can enable us to contact others nearly any place we might be. While this may be useful, we must be careful not to allow the use of cell phones and pagers at inappropriate times to detract from our ministry or Christian meetings. How could this happen?

Consider the effect it would have if our cell phone rang or our pager beeped while we were engaging in the field ministry giving a witness. What would the householder think? What impression might we leave if we stopped to answer the call? We would certainly not want to do anything to hinder others from listening to the Kingdom message. (2 Cor. 6:3) Hence, if we are carrying a cell phone or a pager, we should set it so that it does not interrupt us or others while we are engaging in the field ministry.

What about when we are waiting while others are giving a witness? If we have set aside a period of time for field service, should we not keep our minds on that activity? Out of respect for our sacred service, please care for unnecessary personal business or social interests at another time. (Rom. 12:7) This would not, of course, rule out using a phone to give a further witness or to make an appointment to do so.

We must be especially cautious about using cell phones while driving, since some studies show that doing so greatly increases the risk of having an accident. We should strictly observe any laws that restrict the use of cell phones while driving.

We come to Christian meetings, assemblies, and conventions to worship Jehovah and be taught by him. Should not appreciation for the sacredness of these occasions move us to set cell phones and pagers so that they do not distract us or others? If there is an urgent matter requiring our immediate attention, we should attend to it outside the place of meeting. Otherwise, we should arrange to care for personal and secular matters at times other than those designated for worship.—1 Cor. 10:24.

May the way we use cellular phones or any other electronic equipment always show consideration for others and deep appreciation for spiritual things.

Be Harmoniously Joined Together

1 How often have you marveled at the masterful design of the human body? (Ps. 139:14) Each member of the body works in concert with the others. God's Word likens the Christian congregation to a well-coordinated body. Under the Head, Christ, all the members of the congregation are 'harmoniously joined together and made to cooperate through every joint that gives what is needed.' (Eph. 4:16a) Thus, Jehovah is able to use his united people to accomplish wonderful things.

2 Members of the first-century congregation acted "with one accord" in caring for one another's spiritual and material needs. (Acts 2:44-47) With Jehovah's backing, they unitedly faced and overcame fierce opposition. (Acts 4:24-31) They declared the Kingdom message wherever they went, covering the then-known earth with the good news. (Col. 1:23) In modern times, the Christian congregation has unitedly accomplished these same things on an even larger scale. What factors contribute to this oneness?

3 **Drawn Together by Divine Teaching:** Around the globe, we are united by our worship. How is this possible? We recognize Jehovah's visible channel for providing spiritual "food at the proper time." (Matt. 24:45) We also appreciate the "gifts in men" he has given as teachers in the congregation. As we humbly accept Jehovah's provisions to feed us spiritually, our understanding of God's Word grows and stirs within us a common desire to imitate Jesus as his disciples. We must go on studying God's Word, earnestly endeavoring to "attain to the oneness in the faith." (Eph. 4:8, 11-13) Are you contributing to our spiritual unity by reading the Bible daily?

4 **United by Christian Association:** Love draws us together in close association at Christian meetings. At these meetings, we "consider one another." (Heb. 10:24, 25) This involves looking beyond outward appearances and really getting to know our brothers, seeing them the way Jehovah sees them, as precious. (Hag. 2:7, ftn.) As we listen to their expressions of faith, our love for them deepens and our unity is strengthened. Are you known as one who regularly attends the congregation meetings?

5 **Fellow Workers in the Field:** Preaching the good news with fellow believers unites us in doing God's will. The apostle Paul appreciated his "fellow workers for the kingdom of God." (Col. 4:11) Sharing experiences and assisting one another while in the ministry helps us to accomplish our Christian commission and strengthens our bond of unity. —Col. 3:14.

6 **Unifying Influence of Holy Spirit:** As we apply ourselves to doing his will, Jehovah blesses us with his spirit. This helps us to smooth over differences and dwell together in unity. (Ps. 133:1) It motivates us "to observe the oneness of the spirit in the uniting bond of peace." (Eph. 4:3) Each of us can contribute to the harmony that exists among God's people by manifesting the fruitage of the spirit in our dealings with one another.—Gal. 5:22, 23.

7 Serving together unitedly under Christ's headship "makes for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love." (Eph. 4:16b) Moreover, it glorifies Jehovah, "the God who gives peace."—Rom. 16:20.

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER July 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Do you think that the wicked are punished in hell? [Allow for response.] The Bible clearly shows what the punishment for sin is. [Read Romans 6:23a.] Is hell, then, a fiery place of torment? Is it simply a state of separation from God? This magazine gives Scriptural answers to these questions."

Awake! July 22

"Many people view gambling as a socially acceptable pastime. Others feel that it harms families and society in general. This issue of *Awake!* examines gambling in the light of recently published research. You may also be interested in reading how Bible principles relate to this subject." As an example, read 1 Timothy 6:10.

THE WATCHTOWER Aug. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Many people feel that superstitious ideas and customs are just innocent fun. [Show an item or two from the box on page 5.] Have you ever thought about what is behind such ideas? [After a response, read 2 Corinthians 11:14.] This magazine gives the Bible's view of superstitions."

Awake! Aug. 8

"Many people are very concerned about the rising tide of violence and terrorism. Perhaps you agree with the words of Ecclesiastes 8:9. [Read and allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses lessons from the past and shows how such domination will soon end."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 8/02 Vol. 45, No. 8

Set Spiritual Goals

¹ What a privilege it will be to praise Jehovah throughout eternity! To help us realize that goal, we can set more immediate spiritual goals and work toward attaining them. This enables us to direct our energies wisely. (1 Cor. 9:26) What goals would be realistic for you?

² **Bible Study:** Do you prepare for each congregation meeting? If so, do you allow time for research and meditation when you study? For example, when preparing for the weekly *Watchtower* Study and Congregation Book Study, do you just underline answers or do you look up the cited scriptures and also ponder the reasons for the explanations given? Could you make it your goal to do research on a few points each week from the assigned Bible reading for the Theocratic Ministry School? Such spiritual digging takes time and effort, but it yields rich rewards.—Prov. 2:4, 5.

³ **Congregation Meetings:** Another goal is to attend all five congregation meetings regularly. Arriving early enough to associate with fellow believers and to share in the opening song and prayer helps build up the spirit of the congregation. We might also strive to comment at each meeting and work at improving our comments. Perhaps you can show how a scripture in the paragraph bears on the discussion or point out how the material applies in everyday life. —Heb. 10:24, 25.

⁴ **Field Service:** Our ministry improves greatly when we set goals. Do you have a personal goal of hours that you plan to spend in service each month? Some find that helpful. Or could you improve in some aspect of your ministry, such as using the Bible in the house-to-house activity, making more meaningful return visits, striving to start a Bible study, or teaching more effectively on studies?

⁵ Parents, are you prompting your children to set goals in Jehovah's service? Help them to see that serving as a pioneer, a missionary, or a member of the Bethel family is an excellent way to show the depth of their appreciation for Jehovah. —Eccl. 12:1.

⁶ As we examine our activities, set spiritual goals, and then work at reaching them, we will find greater joy in our service and be a source of encouragement to others.—Rom. 1:12.

New Special Assembly Day Program

¹ While the media and secular educators glorify material wealth, God's Word urges us to "Be Rich in Fine Works." (1 Tim. 6:18) That is the theme of the special assembly day program beginning in September 2002. What encouragement will we receive at this assembly?

² The circuit overseer will discuss what it means to "Be Rich From God's Standpoint," and he will interview some who are exerting themselves to acquire spiritual riches. In his first talk of the day, the visiting speaker will show how God's people are performing "Fine Works in This Time of Harvest." Each of us will be encouraged to consider how we might share even more fully in the God-ordained harvest work being accomplished today.

³ How proud we are when we see Christian youths pursuing spiritual riches! This glorifies Jehovah and helps youths to lay a fine foundation for future privileges of service. The part "Commending Youths for Fine Works in Praising Jehovah" will highlight fine works that young Christians locally have been performing.

⁴ What are the results of pursuing fine works? The visiting speaker will discuss this in his final talk, "Continue in Fine Works and Reap Jehovah's Blessings." He will consider four areas in which we reap rich blessings: (1) as individuals, (2) as families, (3) as a congregation, and (4) as a worldwide organization.

⁵ Those who have made a dedication to Jehovah will have the opportunity to get baptized. If you are ready to take that step, let the presiding overseer know right away.

⁶ When the assembly date for your area is announced, be quick to make definite plans to be in attendance. Endeavor to arrive early so as to share in the opening song and prayer. Being present and attentive for the entire special assembly day program will strengthen us to continue pursuing a course that makes us truly rich from the standpoint of our God, Jehovah.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting August 12

Song 76

13 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the August 15 *Watchtower* and the August 22 *Awake!* In each case, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "Why do you people call so often?"—See *Reasoning* book, page 20.

20 min: "Set Spiritual Goals."* When discussing paragraph 5, include motivating comments about regular pioneering and missionary and Bethel service from the *Our Ministry* book, pages 114-16.

12 min: Local experiences. Invite the congregation to relate experiences they have had using the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* Have any Bible studies been started? If so, explain how or reenact one or two experiences. Review the box "Opportunities to Distribute the Tract" in the November 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4.

Song 123 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 19

Song 182

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Discuss "New Special Assembly Day Program." Announce date of the next special assembly day, and urge all to arrive early and be attentive during the entire program. Encourage publishers to invite newly interested ones and Bible students.

15 min: What Holds Them Back? Audience discussion and demonstration. In our ministry we commonly encounter people who are reluctant to discuss their beliefs. This poses a barrier that can prevent us from sharing the Kingdom message. If we recognize why a person holds back, this may help us to formulate an approach that will draw the individual out. Discuss how we might adapt our presentation when we encounter the following types of people: (1) Those apathetic toward religion, even their own. (2) Those with an emotional attachment to religious customs practiced by their family and ancestors. (3) Those who are uncomfortable talking about their beliefs because they have little Scriptural support for them. (4) Those prejudiced against us because of misleading comments made by opposers. Adjust list as needed to suit the local territory, focusing on attitudes commonly encountered. Include a brief demonstration showing how to draw a person into a Scriptural conversation.

18 min: "Display Christian Loyalty When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped."* (Paragraphs 1-8) To be handled by a well-qualified elder, using the questions that are provided. Have each paragraph read aloud by a brother who is a capable reader.

Song 136 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 26

Song 189

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, have a regular or an auxiliary pioneer demonstrate how to present the September 1 *Watchtower* and have a congregation publisher show how to present the September 8 *Awake!* Encourage all publishers to include a scripture in their presentation.

17 min: "Be a Communicator!"* In conclusion, encourage publishers to review the chapter "How to Improve Conversation Skills" in the book *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education,* pages 62-5.

18 min: "Display Christian Loyalty When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped."* (Paragraphs 9-14) To be handled by a well-qualified elder, using the questions that are provided. Have each paragraph read aloud by a brother who is a capable reader.

Song 125 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 2

Song 84

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for August. Briefly highlight the article "Read With Your Children" in the May 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 25.

20 min: Prepare Before You Go. Discussion and demonstration. Good planning contributes to our effectiveness in the ministry. Therefore, in advance: (1) Obtain the literature you will need. (2) Be sure to have sufficient house-to-house records and a pen or a pencil. (3) If you need transportation, make appropriate travel arrangements. (4) Think about the return visits you plan to make. (5) Prepare what you are going to say. If you will be conducting the meeting for field service, obtain sufficient territory. Discuss with the audience two or three ways that the *Creation* book can be offered in the ministry during September. Demonstrate one of the presentations, and include a scripture in the discussion.—See suggestions in *Our Kingdom Ministry,* September 1996, page 8, and June 1995, page 4.

15 min: Local needs. Or invite the congregation to relate experiences they have had witnessing informally, perhaps by sharing the good news with people in parking lots, on public transportation, in parks, in shopping centers, at truck stops, and in other public places. Reenact one or two experiences.

Song 99 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

	Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**133**	**122.6**	**117**	**55.8**	**5.1**
Pios.	**85,448**	**66.1**	**47.4**	**21.6**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**29,718**	**49.4**	**39.5**	**13.2**	**1**
Pubs.	**861,600**	**9.3**	**8.5**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**976,899**			Baptized: **2,899**	

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Display Christian Loyalty When a Relative Is Disfellowshipped

[1] The bond between family members can be very strong. This brings a test upon a Christian when a marriage mate, a child, a parent, or another close relative is disfellowshipped or has disassociated himself from the congregation. (Matt. 10:37) How should loyal Christians treat such a relative? Does it make a difference if the person lives in your household? First, let us review what the Bible says on this subject, the principles of which apply equally to those who are disfellowshipped and to those who disassociate themselves.

[2] **How to Treat Expelled Ones:** God's Word commands Christians not to keep company or fellowship with a person who has been expelled from the congregation: "Quit mixing in company with *anyone* called a brother that is a fornicator or a greedy person or an idolater or a reviler or a drunkard or an extortioner, not even eating with such a man. . . . Remove the wicked man from among yourselves." (1 Cor. 5:11, 13) Jesus' words recorded at Matthew 18:17 also bear on the matter: "Let [the expelled one] be to you just as a man of the nations and as a tax collector." Jesus' hearers well knew that the Jews of that day had no fraternization with Gentiles and that they shunned tax collectors as outcasts. Jesus was thus instructing his followers not to associate with expelled ones.—See *The Watchtower* of September 15, 1981, pages 18-20.

[3] This means that loyal Christians do not have spiritual fellowship with anyone who has been expelled from the congregation. But more is involved. God's Word states that we should *'not even eat with such a man.'* (1 Cor. 5:11) Hence, we also avoid social fellowship with an expelled person. This would rule out joining him in a picnic, party, ball game, or trip to the mall or theater or sitting down to a meal with him either in the home or at a restaurant.

[4] What about speaking with a disfellowshipped person? While the Bible does not cover every possible situation, 2 John 10 helps us to get Jehovah's view of matters: "If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, never receive him into your homes or say a greeting to him." Commenting on this, *The Watchtower* of September 15, 1981, page 25, says: "A simple 'Hello' to someone can be the first step that develops into a conversation and maybe even a friendship. Would we want to take that first step with a disfellowshiped person?"

[5] Indeed, it is just as page 31 of the same issue of *The Watchtower* states: "The fact is that when a Christian gives himself over to sin and has to be disfellowshiped, he forfeits much: his approved standing with God; . . . sweet fellowship with the brothers, including much of the association he had with Christian relatives."

[6] **In the Immediate Household:** Does this mean that Christians living in the same household with a disfellowshipped family member are to avoid talking to, eating with, and associating with that one as they go about their daily activities? *The Watchtower* of April 15, 1991, in the footnote on page 22, states: "If in a Christian's household there is a disfellowshipped relative, that one would still be part of the normal, day-to-day household dealings and activities." Thus, it would be left up to members of the family to decide on the extent to which the disfellowshipped family member would be included when eating or engaging in other household activities. And yet, they would not want to give brothers with whom they associate the impression that everything is the same as it was before the disfellowshipping occurred.

[7] However, *The Watchtower* of September 15, 1981, page 28, points out regarding the disfellowshipped or disassociated person: "Former spiritual ties have been completely severed. This is true even with respect to his relatives, including those within his immediate family circle. . . . That will mean changes in the spiritual fellowship that may have existed in the home. For example, if the husband is disfellowshiped, his wife and children will not be comfortable with him conducting a family Bible study or leading in Bible reading and prayer. If he wants to say a

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1. What situation can test a Christian's loyalty?
2. According to the Bible, how are Christians to treat those expelled from the congregation?
3, 4. What sort of fellowship with disfellowshipped and disassociated people is forbidden?
5. When disfellowshipped, what does a person forfeit?
6. Is a Christian required to cut off all association with a disfellowshipped relative living in the same household? Explain.
7. How does spiritual fellowship within the home change when a family member is disfellowshipped?

prayer, such as at mealtime, he has a right to do so in his own home. But they can silently offer their own prayers to God. (Prov. 28:9; Ps. 119:145, 146) What if a disfellowshiped person in the home wants to be present when the family reads the Bible together or has a Bible study? The others might let him be present to listen if he will not try to teach them or share his religious ideas."

8 If a minor child living in the home is disfellowshipped, Christian parents are still responsible for his upbringing. *The Watchtower* of November 15, 1988, page 20, states: "Just as they will continue to provide him with food, clothing, and shelter, they need to instruct and discipline him in line with God's Word. (Proverbs 6:20-22; 29:17) Loving parents may thus arrange to have a home Bible study with him, even if he is disfellowshipped. Maybe he will derive the most corrective benefit from their studying with him alone. Or they may decide that he can continue to share in the family study arrangement."—See also *The Watchtower* of October 1, 2001, pages 16-17.

9 **Relatives Not in the Household:** "The situation is different if the disfellowshipped or disassociated one is a relative living outside the immediate family circle and home," states *The Watchtower* of April 15, 1988, page 28. "It might be possible to have almost no contact at all with the relative. Even if there were some family matters requiring contact, this certainly would be kept to a minimum," in harmony with the divine injunction to "quit mixing in company with *anyone*" who is guilty of sinning unrepentantly. (1 Cor. 5:11) Loyal Christians should strive to avoid needless association with such a relative, even keeping business dealings to an absolute minimum.—See also *The Watchtower* of September 15, 1981, pages 29-30.

10 *The Watchtower* addresses another situation that can arise: "What if a close relative, such as a son or a parent who does not live in the home, is disfellowshiped and subsequently wants to move back there? The family could decide what to do depending on the situation. For example, a disfellowshiped parent may be sick or no longer able to care for himself financially or physically. The Christian children have a Scriptural and moral obligation to assist. (1 Tim. 5:8) . . . What is done may depend on factors such as the parent's true needs, his attitude and the regard the head of the household has for the spiritual welfare of the household."—*The Watchtower* of September 15, 1981, pages 28-9.

11 As for a child, the same article continues: "Sometimes Christian parents have accepted back into the home for a time a disfellowshiped child who has become physically or emotionally ill. But in each case the parents can weigh the individual circumstances. Has a disfellowshiped son lived on his own, and is he now unable to do so? Or does he want to move back primarily because it would be an easier life? What about his morals and attitude? Will he bring 'leaven' into the home?—Gal. 5:9."

12 **Benefits of Being Loyal to Jehovah:** Cooperating with the Scriptural arrangement to disfellowship and shun unrepentant wrongdoers is beneficial. It preserves the cleanness of the congregation and distinguishes us as upholders of the Bible's high moral standards. (1 Pet. 1:14-16) It protects us from corrupting influences. (Gal. 5:7-9) It also affords the wrongdoer an opportunity to benefit fully from the discipline received, which can help him to produce "peaceable fruit, namely, righteousness."—Heb. 12:11.

13 After hearing a talk at a circuit assembly, a brother and his fleshly sister realized that they needed to make adjustments in the way they treated their mother, who lived elsewhere and who had been disfellowshipped for six years. Immediately after the assembly, the man called his mother, and after assuring her of their love, he explained that they could no longer talk to her unless there were important family matters requiring contact. Shortly thereafter, his mother began attending meetings and was eventually reinstated. Also, her unbelieving husband began studying and in time was baptized.

14 Loyally upholding the disfellowshipping arrangement outlined in the Scriptures demonstrates our love for Jehovah and provides an answer to the one that is taunting Him. (Prov. 27: 11) In turn, we can be assured of Jehovah's blessing. King David wrote regarding Jehovah: "As for his statutes, I shall not turn aside from them. With someone loyal you will act in loyalty."—2 Sam. 22:23, 26.

8. What responsibility do Christian parents have toward a minor disfellowshipped child living in the home?

9. To what extent should a Christian have contact with a disfellowshipped relative living outside the home?

10, 11. What will a Christian consider before allowing a disfellowshipped relative to move into the home?

12. What are some benefits of the disfellowshipping arrangement?

13. What adjustment did one family make, and with what result?

14. Why should we loyally support the disfellowshipping arrangement?

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of May 6 to August 19, 2002. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Jeremiah 18:1-6 shows that Jehovah causes people to do things against their will. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*99 4/1 p. 22 pars. 3-4.]
2. The false prophets stole the force and effect of God's words by encouraging the people to listen to lies rather than to the true warning from God. (Jer. 23:30) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*92 2/1 p. 4 par. 3.]
3. At Jeremiah 25:15, 16, "this cup of the wine of rage" that makes "all the nations . . . act like crazed men" refers to the stupefying effect of false religion. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*94 3/1 p. 20 par. 13.]
4. According to the way in which Jeremiah's prophecy was applied by Matthew, "the land of the enemy" refers to the land of death, from which the young victims killed by Herod the Great would return by means of a resurrection. (Jer. 31:15, 16; Matt. 2:17, 18) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*79 6/15 p. 19 par. 13.]
5. Jeremiah 37:21 provides assurance that Jehovah can sustain his faithful servants during hard economic times. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*97 9/15 p. 3 par. 4-p. 4 par. 2.]
6. The book of Lamentations expresses deep sorrow over the destruction of Jerusalem in 607 B.C.E. by Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon. [*si* p. 130 par. 1]
7. Lamentations 5:7 clearly shows that Jehovah directly punishes children for the sins of their parents. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/1 p. 27 box.]
8. The mark on the forehead referred to at Ezekiel 9:4 means that knowledge alone will save a person. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 14 par. 18.]
9. The "gifts in men" mentioned at Ephesians 4:8 are Christian elders, who are appointed by holy spirit and are given authority to care for the spiritual interests of fellow believers. (Acts 20:28) [*w*00 8/1 p. 6 par. 3]
10. In the modern-day application of Ezekiel chapter 23, Protestantism can be likened to Oholibah and Roman Catholicism, to her older sister Oholah. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 21 par. 22.]

Answer the following questions:

11. What three prophets were outstanding during the critical years from 617 to 607 B.C.E., which culminated in the destruction of Jerusalem? [*si* p. 133 par. 2]
12. How is genuine appreciation for Christ's ransom sacrifice reflected, in response to the invitation at Luke 9:23? [*w*00 3/15 p. 8 par. 1]
13. In what way did Jehovah 'fool' Jeremiah? (Jer. 20:7) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 5/1 p. 31 par. 6.]
14. What did Jesus mean when he said that the holy spirit "will teach you all things and bring back to your minds all the things I told you"? (John 14:26) [*w*00 4/1 p. 8 pars. 7-8]
15. According to Jeremiah 35:18, 19, what hope is held out for the modern-day Rechabite class? [Weekly Bible reading; see *su* p. 131 par. 7.]
16. In what way were the Nephilim "mighty ones" and "men of fame"? (Gen. 6:4) [*w*00 4/15 p. 27 par. 9]
17. How did Baruch lose his spiritual balance, and what lesson can we learn from his experience? (Jer. 45:1-5) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*97 8/15 p. 21 pars. 14-16.]

18. When and how was the prophecy at Jeremiah 50:38 fulfilled? [Weekly Bible reading; see *dp* p. 150 pars. 2-3.]

19. What does the fate of Jerusalem, "the virgin daughter of Judah," portend for Christendom, according to Lamentations 1:15? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/1 p. 27 box.]

20. What is the significance of the statement "Remove the turban, and lift off the crown," as recorded at Ezekiel 21:26? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 19 par. 16.]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. A modest person stays within the ________ of good ________ and acknowledges that there are ________ to what he ought to do and is able to do. (Mic. 6:8) [*w*00 3/15 p. 21 pars. 1-2]

22. Although holy spirit may not remove ________ or ________, it can help us to ________ them. (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Cor. 4:7) [*w*00 4/1 p. 11 par. 6]

23. The prophet Daniel discerned from Jeremiah's writings that Jerusalem's desolation would last ________; the astounding accuracy of this strengthens faith in Jehovah's power of ________. (Jer. 25:12; Dan. 9:2) [*si* p. 129 par. 37]

24. The book of Lamentations should inspire ________ and ________ in true worshipers and serve as a ________ warning to those who disregard Jehovah God. [*si* p. 132 par. 13]

25. Abraham's example of being yielding when handling a difference is an encouragement for us not to allow ________ or ________ to ruin our precious relationship with our brothers. (Gen. 13:5-12) [*w*00 8/15 p. 24 pars. 3-4]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. Job valued Jehovah's (knowledge; mercy; judgment) and thus dealt (insightfully; mercifully; justly) with his slaves. (Job 31:13, 14) [*w*00 3/15 p. 26 par. 1]

27. At Jeremiah 16:2-4, the prophet was commanded to remain single (to reflect his self-sacrificing spirit; to prefigure the course of singleness taken by the Messiah; to confirm the certainty of Jehovah's word regarding Jerusalem's destruction). [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*78 4/15 p. 31 par. 2.]

28. At Proverbs 4:7, wisdom refers to (being acquainted with facts; seeing how the facts relate to one another; putting knowledge and understanding to work). [*w*00 5/15 p. 21 par. 1]

29. No human can be absolutely certain as to the original Hebrew pronunciation of the divine name because Biblical Hebrew was originally written with (only vowels; only consonants). [*rs* p. 195 par. 1]

30. The chariot of God described in Ezekiel chapter 1 represents (God's Messianic Kingdom; Jehovah's angelic spirit organization; Jehovah's communication with the remnant). [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 11 par. 5.]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Deut. 7:25, 26; Prov. 4:18; 5:21; Jer. 46:28; Rom. 15:4

31. This command provides a pattern as to how Jehovah's people should view any images that they may formerly have venerated. [*rs* p. 186 par. 3]

32. A particular way in which Jehovah provides comfort is through his written Word, which contains a marvelous hope for the future. [*w*00 4/15 p. 5 par. 4]

33. Parental discipline should not surpass reasonable limits nor go beyond its purpose of correcting and teaching. [Weekly Bible reading; see *kl* p. 148 par. 20.]

34. Since Jehovah enables his servants to understand his purpose in a progressive manner, increased knowledge often requires adjustments in one's thinking. [*rs* p. 205 par. 4]

35. Any act of sexual uncleanness, regardless of how secret, is not hidden from the eyes of God. [*w*00 7/15 p. 31 par. 3]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *"Look! I Am Making All Things New," Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies.* The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* Before requesting additional supplies from Brooklyn, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* If people already have these, an older publication may be offered. You may check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand if you do not have any in stock.

- Congregations should begin requesting the *2003 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses*, *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2003*, and *2003 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their next literature request. **All** of these publications will be available in Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian (Cyrillic), Slovak, Spanish, and Swedish. **In addition,** the *2003 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* may be requested in Afrikaans, Armenian, Bulgarian, Danish, Dutch, East Armenian, Hebrew, Hindi, Thai, Turkish, and Ukrainian. *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2003* may also be requested in Amharic, Armenian, Bengali, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chinese (Simplified), Danish, Dutch, East Armenian, Ewe, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Iloko, Indonesian, Macedonian, Malayalam, Papiamento (Curaçao), Persian, Punjabi (Gurmukhi), Samoan, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Swahili, Tagalog, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish, Twi, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese. The *2003 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* may also be requested in Cebuano, Dutch, Iloko, Indonesian, and Tagalog.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

- The annual inventory of all literature and magazines on hand should be taken on or as close as possible to August 31, 2002. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken monthly by the literature coordinator, and the totals should be entered on the Literature Inventory form (S-18). The total number of magazines on hand can be obtained from the magazine servants in each congregation in the literature group. Each coordinating congregation will receive three Literature Inventory forms (S-18). *Please mail the original to the branch office no later than September 6.* Keep a copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet. The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. He and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation will sign the form.

- On August 30 and 31, 2002, an inventory will be taken of all literature on hand at Brooklyn Bethel. Because of this, no congregation literature requests will be processed for pickup during those days.

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II

Study Schedule for 2002

Sept. 16:	chap. 1, pars. 1-18
23:	chap. 2, pars. 1-14
30:	chap. 2, pars. 15-28
Oct. 7:	chap. 3, pars. 1-12
14:	chap. 3, pars. 13-28
21:	chap. 4, pars. 1-14
28:	chap. 4, pars. 15-25
Nov. 4:	chap. 5, pars. 1-13
11:	chap. 5, pars. 14-26
18:	chap. 6, pars. 1-16
25:	chap. 6, pars. 17-27
Dec. 2:	chap. 7, pars. 1-10
9:	chap. 7, pars. 11-20
16:	chap. 8, pars. 1-15
23:	chap. 8, pars. 16-28
30:	chap. 9, pars. 1-13

Study Schedule for 2003

Jan. 6:	chap. 9, pars. 14-25
13:	chap. 10, pars. 1-18
20:	chap. 10, pars. 19-32
27:	chap. 11, pars. 1-11
Feb. 3:	chap. 11, pars. 12-22
10:	chap. 12, pars. 1-12
17:	chap. 12, pars. 13-25
24:	chap. 13, pars. 1-12
Mar. 3:	chap. 13, pars. 13-24
10:	chap. 14, pars. 1-16
17:	chap. 14, pars. 17-29
24:	chap. 14, pars. 30-7 and box on p. 212
Mar. 31:	chap. 15, pars. 1-12 and box on pp. 218-19
Apr. 7:	chap. 15, pars. 13-28
14:	chap. 16, pars. 1-12
21:	chap. 16, pars. 13-26
28:	chap. 17, pars. 1-10
May 5:	chap. 17, pars. 11-24
12:	chap. 18, pars. 1-12
19:	chap. 18, pars. 13-26
26:	chap. 19, pars. 1-11
June 2:	chap. 19, pars. 12-24
9:	chap. 20, pars. 1-11
16:	chap. 20, pars. 12-22
23:	chap. 21, pars. 1-14
30:	chap. 21, pars. 15-30
July 7:	chap. 22, pars. 1-15
14:	chap. 22, pars. 16-27
21:	chap. 23, pars. 1-12
28:	chap. 23, pars. 13-25
Aug. 4:	chap. 24, pars. 1-13
11:	chap. 24, pars. 14-22
18:	chap. 25, pars. 1-8 and boxes on pp. 362, 366
25:	chap. 25, pars. 9-19
Sept. 1:	chap. 26, pars. 1-12
8:	chap. 26, pars. 13-23
15:	chap. 26, pars. 24-35
22:	chap. 27, pars. 1-12
29:	chap. 27, pars. 13-24
Oct. 6:	chap. 28, pars. 1-11
13:	chap. 28, pars. 12-23

Be a Communicator!

[1] To carry out our commission to preach and make disciples, we must impart information to others. (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) Communication can be a challenge even among friends. What can help us to reach strangers with the good news?

[2] **From Stranger to Friend:** Try to put yourself in the place of those you approach in the ministry. In today's world, it is understandable that some might be suspicious, or even fearful, of strangers. This can stifle communication. How can you overcome the initial apprehension of those you meet? Before we ever say a word, one way we communicate is by *our modest personal appearance.* Our well-arranged dress and dignified bearing help to allay fears. —1 Tim. 2:9, 10.

[3] Another aid to communication is *a relaxed, friendly manner.* This helps put others at ease and makes them more inclined to listen. Good preparation is necessary in this regard. When we have clearly in mind what we are going to say, we tend to be less nervous. And this peaceful frame of mind on our part can draw others to our message. One woman said this about the visit of a Witness: "What I remember about her smiling face was the peace. I was intrigued." This opened the way for the woman to listen to the good news.

[4] **Qualities That Attract:** We need to take *a sincere personal interest in others.* (Phil. 2:4) One way to do this is by not dominating the conversation. After all, communication also involves listening. When we invite our listeners to express themselves and we listen with interest to their comments, they sense that we care about them. So when your listeners speak, do not be in a hurry to revert to your prepared presentation. Commend them if you can do so sincerely, and try to build on what they say. If their comments reveal something that is close to their heart, adapt your presentation to address their concerns.

[5] *Modesty and lowliness of mind* lubricate the gears of communication. (Prov. 11:2; Acts 20:19) People were drawn to Jesus because he was "mild-tempered and lowly in heart." (Matt. 11:29) On the other hand, a superior attitude repels. Thus, although we are firmly convinced that we have the truth, we wisely avoid speaking in a dogmatic manner.

[6] What if the person's comments reflect beliefs that are out of harmony with what the Bible teaches? Are we under obligation to correct him? Yes, in due course, but we do not have to try to do so on the initial call. Often it is advantageous to build on ideas we hold in common with our listener before sharing Bible teachings that he may find more difficult to accept. This requires *patience and tact.* Paul set a fine example in this regard when witnessing to the judges of the Areopagus. —Acts 17:18, 22-31.

[7] Above all, *unselfish love* will help us to be effective communicators. Like Jesus, we must feel pity for people who are "skinned and thrown about like sheep without a shepherd." (Matt. 9:36) This moves us to bring them the good news and to help them get on the road to life. Ours is a message of love, so let us keep telling it in a loving way. By so doing, we imitate Jehovah God and Jesus Christ —the foremost Communicators in the universe.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom Aug. 15

"What do you think is the highest form of loyalty? [Allow for response.] This article stresses loyalty to the true God. [Point to page 5, and read 2 Samuel 22:26.] Did you know that loyalty to God can help prevent people from acting unlovingly toward others? I know you will enjoy reading about it."

Awake! Aug. 22

"Have you ever worried that mankind's pollution problem is out of control? [Allow for response.] A main cause of the problem is wastefulness. Jesus taught his followers not to be wasteful. [Read John 6:12.] This magazine shows how following Bible principles can help families avoid the throwaway mentality."

THE WATCHTOWER Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom Sept. 1

"Have you noticed that in many places neighbors don't know one another the way they used to? [Allow for response.] Jesus stated a principle that is a key to being a good neighbor. [Read Matthew 7:12.] These articles show how we can be good neighbors and encourage others to do the same."

Awake! Sept. 8

"For many today, life is filled with uncertainty. [Read Ecclesiastes 9:11.] Where can reliable guidance be found? [Allow for response.] Some turn to numerology. Is this the means by which your destiny can be revealed? Where can you find reliable information about the future? *Awake!* provides the answers."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 9/02 Vol. 45, No. 9

Helping Others to Glorify Jehovah

[1] A vital message is being proclaimed to people throughout the earth: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of the judgment by him has arrived, and so worship the One who made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters." (Rev. 14:6, 7) It is our privilege to share in that proclamation. What do people need to know about Jehovah in order to fear and worship him?

[2] **His Name:** People need to be able to distinguish by name the only true God from the many false gods worshiped today. (Deut. 4:35; 1 Cor. 8:5, 6) In fact, Bible writers used Jehovah's illustrious name more than 7,000 times. While we properly use discernment as to when we introduce God's name, we should never hide it or shy away from using it. God's will is that all mankind come to know his name.—Ps. 83:18.

[3] **His Personality:** To glorify Jehovah, people need to know what kind of God he is. We must acquaint them with his outstanding love, superlative wisdom, complete justice, and almighty power, along with his mercy, loving-kindness, and other wonderful qualities. (Ex. 34:6, 7) They must also learn to have a wholesome fear of God, to hold him in awe, recognizing that their very lives depend on having Jehovah's approval.—Ps. 89:7.

[4] **Drawing Close to God:** To be saved through God's coming judgment, people must call on Jehovah in faith. (Rom. 10:13, 14; 2 Thess. 1:8) This involves more than simply gaining a knowledge of God's name and qualities. We must help people develop a personal relationship with Jehovah, trusting in him with all their heart. (Prov. 3:5, 6) As they apply what they learn, turn to God in earnest prayer, and experience his hand in their lives, their faith will grow, helping them to draw close to Jehovah.—Ps. 34:8.

[5] May we zealously declare God's name and help others to put their full trust in him and to fear him. We may yet be able to help many more come to know Jehovah and glorify him as their "God of salvation."—Ps. 25:5.

Show Appreciation for Theocratic Resources

[1] When making arrangements to repair the temple, King Josiah commended those assigned to do the work, saying: "No accounting should be taken of the money with them into whose hand it is being put, for it is in faithfulness that they are working." (2 Ki. 22:3-7) The appreciation those men had for sacred things was evident in how they handled the resources entrusted to them. Today, as we engage in the holy work of the good news of God, we likewise need to show faithfulness in handling the resources given to us.

[2] **In the Field Ministry:** Appreciation for the vital message contained in our publications and awareness of the cost involved in producing them causes us to value them highly. We should not offer our literature indiscriminately to those who show no real appreciation for the Bible's message. If a person shows little interest in the good news, we might offer him a tract rather than other literature.

[3] Distribute literature in a way that shows regard for its value. Avoid leaving it in public areas where it will simply get strewn about. To avoid waste, take inventory of what you have on hand at home before obtaining more literature. If you regularly have a surplus of each issue of the magazines, consider reducing your order.

[4] **Publications for Personal Use:** We should order only what publications we actually need. Especially should we be moderate when requesting deluxe Bibles, *Reference Bibles*, and other large publications, such as the *Concordance*, *Index*, *Insight* volumes, and *Proclaimers* book, all of which are produced at considerable cost.

[5] Do you make it a point to write your name and address in your personal copies of the publications? This helps to reduce the need to obtain replacements for publications that are misplaced. If you lose a songbook, Bible, or study publication, perhaps you will find it among the lost items collected at the Kingdom Hall or assembly site.—Luke 15:8, 9.

[6] Let us strive to make wise use of our literature. This is a way to demonstrate our faithfulness in handling the Kingdom resources Jehovah has entrusted to us.—Luke 16:10.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting September 9

Song 209

13 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two demonstrations of how to present the September 15 *Watchtower* and the September 22 *Awake!* In each case, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I'm not interested in Jehovah's Witnesses."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 17-18.

17 min: "Helping Others to Glorify Jehovah."* As time permits, mention a practical point or two in the *Reasoning* book, pages 196-9.

15 min: Why a Lack of Faith? Audience discussion. We often encounter people who have little faith. (2 Thess. 3:2) To reach them with the truth about Jehovah, we should first try to determine what has influenced their thinking about God. Consider the four factors mentioned in the *Reasoning* book, pages 129-30, that can hinder people from acquiring faith. Invite audience to suggest what approach could be used in each case. Relate an experience of an effective approach, or use the one in the August 22, 1993, *Awake!*, pages 14-15.

Song 122 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 16

Song 163

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Encourage all to review their notes from the last circuit assembly program in preparation for next week's Service Meeting.

18 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by the service overseer. Give highlights of the congregation report for the 2002 service year. Commend everyone for the good things accomplished. Focus on how the congregation has done in meeting attendance, in return visit and Bible study activity, and in auxiliary pioneering, outlining practical suggestions for improvement. Set reachable goals for the coming year.

17 min: The Challenges Facing Single Parents. An elder interviews one or two single parents (or those whose mates are not Witnesses) to see how they cope with problems related to training, disciplining, and spiritually guiding their children. How are they able to care for family responsibilities and also get to meetings and out in field service regularly? Highlight some suggestions presented in the *Family Happiness* book, pages 104-10. As pointed out on pages 113-15, mention practical ways that others can assist.

Song 149 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 23

Song 107

10 min: Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, have an elder demonstrate how to present the October 1 *Watchtower* and have a ministerial servant show how to present the October 8 *Awake!* After each demonstration, restate the opening sentence or two that was used to arouse the householder's interest.

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: "Fear God and Give Him Glory." (Rev. 14:7) Talk and audience discussion reviewing the circuit assembly program that was held during the past service year. Invite the congregation to comment on key points learned and on how they were able to apply them personally or as family groups. (Portions can be assigned in advance.) Feature these program parts: (1) "Help New Ones to Cultivate Fear of God." How can we assist interested ones who attended the Memorial to progress and become active servants of Jehovah? (2) "Fear of Jehovah Means the Hating of Bad." (*w*87 4/15 16-18) How can Proverbs 6:16-19 help us to turn away from things that Jehovah hates —pride, lying, materialistic pursuits, unwholesome entertainment, misuse of the Internet? (3) "Draw Ever Closer to Those You Love." We love Jehovah, Jesus, family members, others in the congregation; how does drawing close to them safeguard us from the world? (4) "Fear Jehovah, Not Men." How has fear of displeasing Jehovah helped you to overcome timidity when preaching, to adhere to godly principles at work or school, or to resist pressure from your employer to miss meetings, assemblies, and conventions? (5) "Do All Things for God's Glory." (Ps. 119:37; Heb. 4:13) Why should godly fear prevent us from drinking immoderately, viewing pornography, or practicing other concealed sins? (6) "Keep On Walking in the Fear of Jehovah." How has Jehovah blessed you for making room for his spirit to operate fully in your life?—Ps. 31:19; 33:18; 34:9, 17; 145:19.

Song 171 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 30

Song 116

15 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September. Discuss "Kingdom Hall Construction Program Moves Ahead."

15 min: What Makes Our Magazines Unique? Talk and audience discussion. During October we will be featuring *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Discuss reasons why the magazines are unique: (1) They exalt Jehovah's name. (2) They encourage faith in Jesus. (3) They proclaim God's Kingdom. (4) They direct attention to the Bible as the final authority. (5) They explain fulfillment of Bible prophecy. (6) They explain the real meaning behind world events. (7) They show how to cope with today's problems. (8) They appeal to people of all walks of life. (9) They stay politically neutral. Present two brief demonstrations, with each showing how one of these points can be used to start a conversation.

15 min: "Show Appreciation for Theocratic Resources."* To be handled by an elder. Include comments on what has been observed locally and what the congregation can do to make wise use of our literature. Urge all to limit literature requests to what is actually needed. Remember the privilege to contribute financially in support of the worldwide work.—See "Share With Others According to Their Needs," in the November 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3.

Song 21 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 7

Song 129

10 min: Local announcements.

(Continued on p. 7, col. 1)

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Kingdom Hall Construction Program Moves Ahead

Bimbo, Bangui

CENTRAL
AFRICAN
REPUBLIC

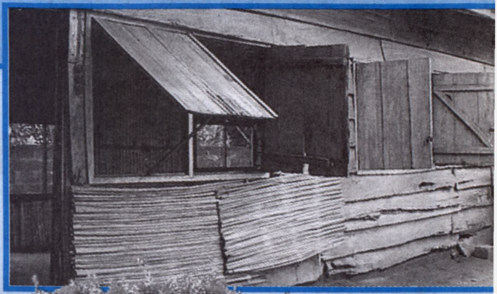
Begoua, Bangui

¹ In 1983 at the "Kingdom Unity" District Conventions in the United States, it was announced that a special fund would be established to support the construction and remodeling of Kingdom Halls throughout the United States and Canada. Little did we realize what blessings would result from such small beginnings. We began to experience more fully what Psalm 92:4 so aptly states: "For you have made me rejoice, O Jehovah, because of your activity; because of the works of your hands I cry out joyfully."

² We now rejoice greatly in what is being accomplished. Today an accelerated global Kingdom Hall construction program is under way. In one way or another, all of us have the privilege of sharing in this activity. We do so by making large or small monetary contributions to help finance the construction of more places of worship throughout the world. Many brothers also volunteer the use of their equipment as well as their time, abilities, and skills in connection with such projects. The success of the entire arrangement is due to Jehovah's guidance, support, and rich blessing upon our united efforts.—Psalm 127:1.

³ Many branches have followed the pattern originally instituted for congregations in the United States. At Kingdom Halls in many lands, there is a box where publishers put their contributions for the Kingdom Hall Fund. In the United States, *Our Kingdom Ministry* for March 1997 announced an adjustment in this program. It stated: "Ever since the Society Kingdom Hall Fund was established in 1983, the brothers

Ukonga, Tanzania



Allada, Benin—former Kingdom Hall

Allada, Benin—new Kingdom Hall

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
MEETING DAYS
ADOGON
ADOGON CENTRAL

Accra, Ghana

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

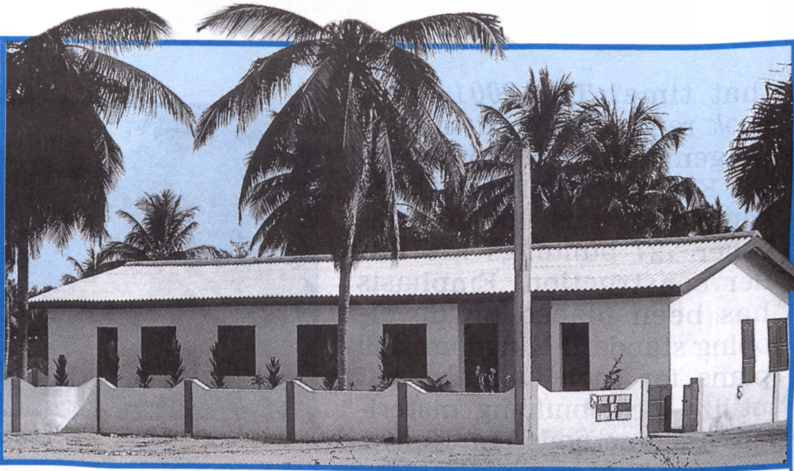
Salala, Liberia

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

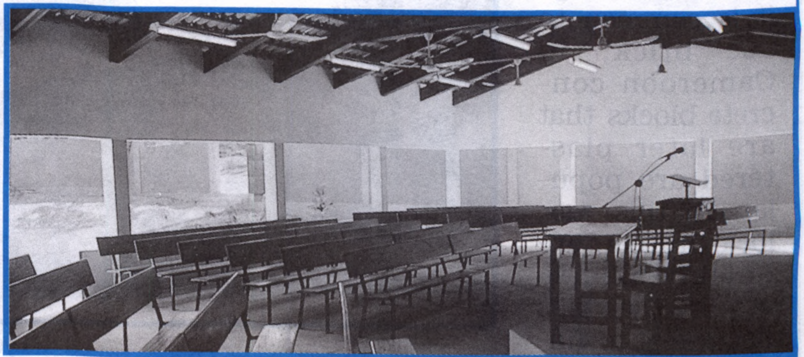
Karoi, Zimbabwe

have contributed generously, thus enabling loans to be made for Kingdom Hall construction. Already some 2,700 congregations in this country have benefited from this arrangement. Many congregations could not otherwise build new Kingdom Halls or renovate those in need of repair. There is now an urgent need to use some of these contributed funds to provide loans to congregations in economically depressed countries. Your continued support of this arrangement is greatly appreciated by the Society and by those congregations that benefit from your contributions."

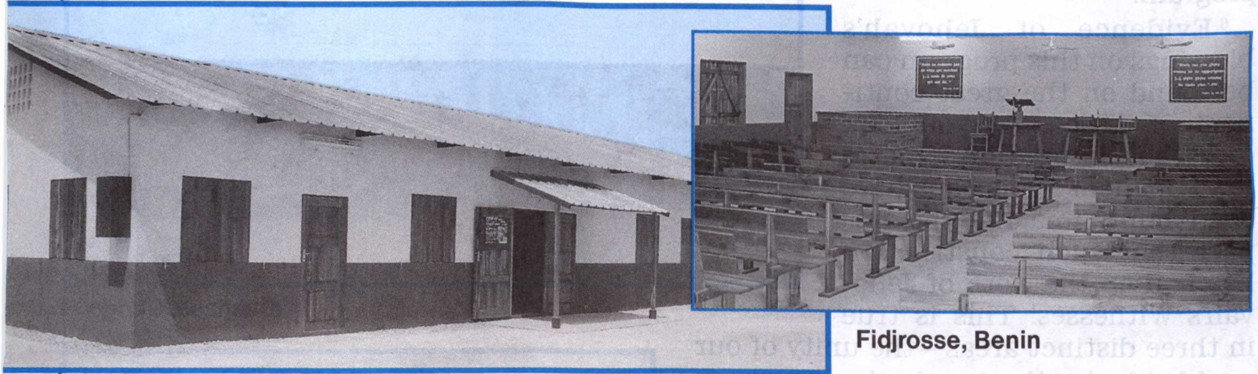
[4] That announcement served as an in-



Kpeme, Togo



Sokodé, Togo

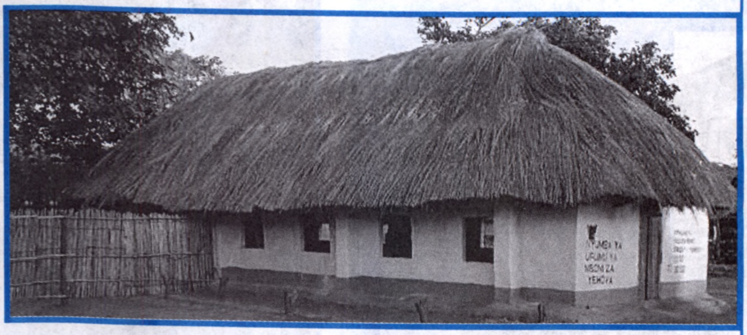


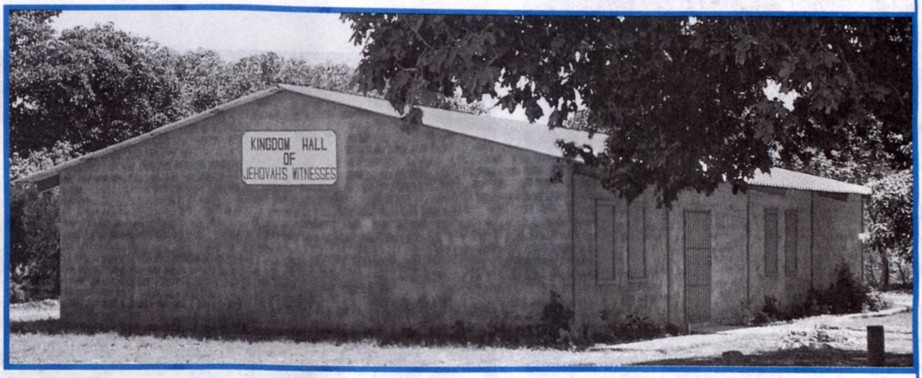
Fidjrosse, Benin

vitation to participate in an accelerated Kingdom Hall construction program. The Kingdom Hall Fund would be expanded to embrace the needs of our brothers in other lands while continuing to provide loans for Kingdom Hall construction in this country. A subsequent article in the August 1997 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* stated: "There is an ongoing need for Kingdom Hall construction worldwide. During just the last service year, 3,288 new congregations were formed. Many of these congregations are in Africa, Asia, Central and South America, and Eastern Europe."

5 What have been the results since

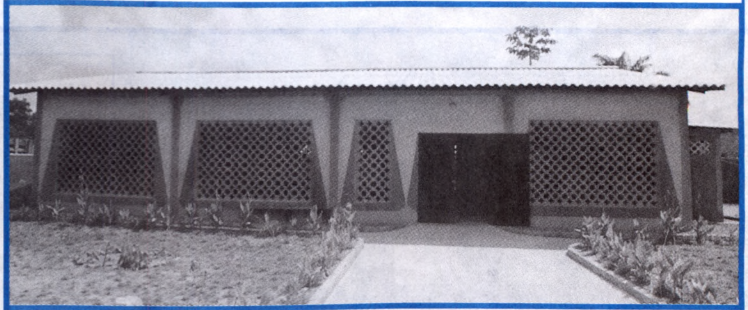
that time? The *2001 Yearbook* reported: "With this arrangement, in 30 countries, 453 Kingdom Halls have been completed thus far, and another 727 buildings are under construction. Emphasis has been placed on developing standard Kingdom Hall plans for each country that utilize local building materials and methods. In Kenya, quarried stone is used; in Togo it is common to use brick; in Cameroon concrete blocks that are later plastered are popular. In this way, local brothers are quickly able to acquire the skills necessary to fulfill key roles within a national program."

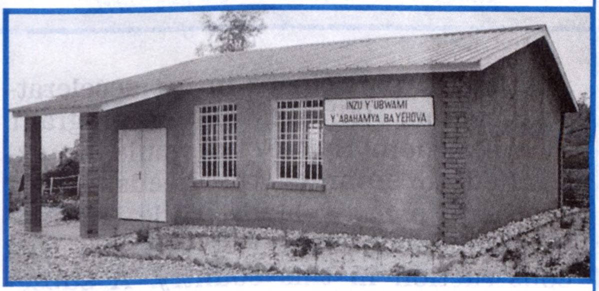

Lyenga, Zambia—former Kingdom Hall



Lyenga, Zambia—new Kingdom Hall

6 Evidence of Jehovah's blessings on this program can be found on the great continent of Africa. As you look over the pictures of some of the Kingdom Halls that have been built, imagine the impact that such construction has had on the work of Jehovah's Witnesses! This is true in three distinct areas—the unity of our worldwide brotherhood, the effect on the local community, and the increase in attendance at congregation meetings. While this insert highlights Kingdom Halls built in Africa, future editions of *Our Kingdom Ministry* will focus on how the Kingdom Hall construction program is moving ahead in other regions of the world.


Kinshasa, Congo



Musambira, Rwanda

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* If people already have these, an older publication may be offered. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternate offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*, or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.*

■ The October 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* should not be distributed until after the congregation has attended its assigned district convention.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office within 30 days after reaching 18 years of age. A male noncitizen under the age of 26 who takes up residency in the United States must also register with Selective Service within 30 days of becoming a resident. All of those required to do so should comply with this law, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. From the time he registers until the year he turns 26, a brother must notify Selective Service of any change of address within ten days of the change. Elders should be aware of young brothers nearing the age of 18 and new alien residents between the ages of 18 and 26 and remind them of their duty to register with the Selective Service System.

■ The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

■ The branch office does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ Monthly editions of *The Watchtower* in Haitian Creole will be available beginning with the September 1, 2002, issue.

■ Monthly editions of *The Watchtower* on videocassette in American Sign Language will be available beginning with the September 1, 2002, issue.

■ A semimonthly edition of *Awake!* will be available on audiocassette in Korean, beginning with the September 8, 2002, issue.

■ At times, congregations and individual publishers face legal challenges relating to our worship of Jehovah. The booklet *Defending and Legally Establishing the Good News* was published in 1950 to assist with these matters. Although this booklet has been of use in the past, the legal information it presents is no longer up-to-date. Thus, individual publishers and bodies of elders should not attempt to handle legal matters on the basis of the information contained in that booklet.

■ The special public talk for the 2003 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 27. The subject of the talk and an outline will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 27, 2003.

■ New Publications Available:

2002 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses —Ukrainian

"All Scripture"—Authentic and Beneficial, Brochure 1 (Brochure for use in 2002 Theocratic Ministry School) —East Armenian, Ukrainian

"All Scripture"—Authentic and Beneficial, Brochure 2 (Brochure for use in 2002 Theocratic Ministry School) —East Armenian

A Satisfying Life—How to Attain It —Hindi, Malayalam, Marathi, Mongolian, Persian, Turkish

Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education —Arabic, Croatian, Finnish, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog

Does Fate Rule Our Lives?—Or Does God Hold Us Responsible? (for Muslims) (Tract No. 71) —Czech, Dutch, Urdu

Do You Have an Immortal Spirit? (Tract No. 25) —Dutch, Marshallese, Turkish

Enjoy Life on Earth Forever! —Huave, Maya, Mazatec, Totonac, Tzeltal, Tzotzil

Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind II—Large Print —Spanish

Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe? —Armenian, Bulgarian, Ga, Samoan, Tongan

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Mongolian

Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation? (Small size) —Tamil

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Respect Jehovah's Authority—On Videocassette —American Sign Language, English

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**131**	**120.0**	**105.2**	**52.7**	**5.1**
Pios.	**85,242**	**62.8**	**44.2**	**20.3**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**23,884**	**49.3**	**37.0**	**12.2**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**851,387**	**9.5**	**8.7**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**960,644**			Baptized:	**4,448**

Service Meeting Schedule

(*Continued*)

15 min: Taking a Stand for the Truth at School. Interview one or two young publishers who have returned to school and who realize the need to limit association with unbelieving classmates. How do they plan to deal with challenges and enticements presented by nationalistic ceremonies, school dances and rallies, extracurricular sports, and unclean conduct? Include comments about ways they plan to witness at school.

20 min: "Avoid the Pursuit of 'Valueless Things.'"* After discussing paragraph 4, include comments on the November 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraphs 30-2. When discussing paragraph 5, include comments on the box in the October 1, 1994, *Watchtower,* page 8. Along with paragraph 6, read paragraph 18 in the November 1999 insert. Song 105 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

Avoid the Pursuit of "Valueless Things"

1 One popular means of communication today is E-mail. Although sharing personal experiences and thoughts among family and friends through this medium may be appropriate, what "valueless things" can be associated with the unrestricted use of E-mail?—Prov. 12:11.

2 **Cautions Regarding E-Mail:** Some claim to feel more in touch with Jehovah's organization when they receive what they consider to be fresh information via E-mail. This may include experiences, notes on events at Bethel, reports of disasters or persecution, and even confidential information released at Kingdom Ministry Schools. Others seem overly eager to send such messages, hoping to be the first to reveal the information to their friends.

3 At times, information and experiences have been distorted or exaggerated. Or perhaps in an effort to be sensational, some have conveyed a false impression. Those who are hasty to reveal such matters often do not have all the facts. (Prov. 29:20) In some cases, even when a story is unbelievable, it is passed on as a curiosity. Such inaccurate or misleading reports amount to "false stories," which do not promote genuine godly devotion. —1 Tim. 4:6, 7.

4 If you forward information that turns out to be inaccurate, you bear a measure of responsibility for the sorrow or confusion this can cause. When David received an exaggerated report that all his sons had been killed, he "ripped his clothes apart" in anguish. However, in truth, only one of his sons had died. That was distressing enough, but this exaggeration caused David added distress. (2 Sam. 13:30-33) Surely we would not want to do anything that would mislead or discourage any of our brothers.

5 **God's Appointed Channel:** Bear in mind that our heavenly Father has an appointed channel of communication, "the faithful and discreet slave." That "slave" has the responsibility to determine what information is made available to the household of faith, as well as "the proper time" for it to be dispensed. This spiritual food is available only through the theocratic organization. We should always look to God's appointed channel for reliable information, not to a network of Internet users.—Matt. 24:45.

6 **Internet Web Sites:** We have an official Internet Web site: *www.watchtower.org.* This site is adequate to make information available to the public. There is no need for any individual, committee, or congregation to prepare a Web page about Jehovah's Witnesses. Some have posted the contents of our publications with all scriptures and references given in full and have even offered copies of convention material on a donation basis. Whether profit is involved or not, the practice of reproducing and distributing publications of Jehovah's Witnesses in an electronic document is a violation of copyright laws. While some may view this as a service to the brothers, it is not approved and should be discontinued.

7 Exercising good judgment and soundness of mind when using electronic communication will ensure that our minds are filled with "precious and pleasant things of value."—Prov. 24:4.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Sept. 15

"Millions of people believe that 'saints' have special power and that it is good to pray through them. What do you think? [Allow for response.] Notice what Jesus Christ said. [Read John 14:6.] This makes some wonder about praying through 'saints.' This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses that important subject."

Awake! Sept. 22

"Many today are concerned about terrorism, including the use of biological weapons. Do you think that human governments can rid this world of terrorism? [Allow for response.] The Bible shows what God has in mind. [Read Ezekiel 34:28.] This *Awake!* magazine examines some of the issues involved."

THE WATCHTOWER Oct. 1

"Many have wondered if there will ever be an end to all the troubles we see around us—wars, crime, and acts of terror. What do you think? [Allow for response.] The Bible gives this comforting assurance. [Read Psalm 37:10, 11.] This magazine explains why God has not yet put an end to evil and the suffering it causes."

Awake! Oct. 8

"Today there seems to be a dramatic increase in the number of single-parent families. The Bible shows that our Creator has compassion for them. [Read Psalm 146:9.] This issue of *Awake!* shows how Bible principles can help single parents to raise their children successfully."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 10/02 Vol. 45, No. 10

Benefiting Fully From the "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Convention

1 **An Invigorating Program:** What a stimulating program we enjoyed at our recent district convention! We were gathered for a common purpose, to become better equipped to proclaim God's Kingdom zealously. Do you remember how the first speaker defined the phrase "to proclaim"? Do you recall what research we were encouraged to do in the talk "Be Fearless in Knowing That Jehovah Is With Us"? Which true life accounts have you examined thus far?

2 The symposium "The Quality of Our Faith Tested by Various Trials" gave three main reasons why Jehovah allows persecution. Can you explain what they are? What is the Scriptural basis for our Christian neutrality? What were we encouraged to do to prepare ourselves for challenges to our neutral position? How does our faithfully enduring trials bring praise to Jehovah?

3 Which scenes in the drama "Stand Firm in Troublesome Times" especially strengthened you? How can we be like Jeremiah?

4 The public discourse, "The Scene of This World Is Changing," described what significant changes that lie ahead and that lead up to God's fear-inspiring day? While listening to the concluding talk, "Abound in Fine Works as Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers," how did you relate the information to your personal ministry?

5 **Main Points to Apply:** As was explained in the talk "Show Yourselves Thankful," how can we express the depth of our gratitude to Jehovah? In the keynote address, "Kingdom Proclaimers Fired With Zeal," whose zeal were we encouraged to imitate? What self-examination were we asked to make?

6 The symposium "Micah's Prophecy Strengthens Us to Walk in Jehovah's Name" highlighted what three requirements that we must meet to receive Jehovah's favor? Are these reachable? (Mic. 6:8) According to the talk "Maintain Chastity by Safeguarding Your Heart," in what ways must we keep morally clean? In what areas did the talk "Guard Against Deception" warn us not to be deceived and not to deceive others?

7 Which practical points from the symposium "Kingdom Proclaimers Who Glorify Their Ministry" have you begun applying in your ministry? In the talk "Spiritual Conversation Builds Up," Philippians 4:8 was analyzed. How does that scripture help us to make our conversations spiritual, and when should we do so?

8 The talk "Trust Jehovah Completely in Times of Distress" discussed how we can cope with tragic events, financial difficulties, poor health, family problems, and persistent weaknesses. How can we show trust in Jehovah when facing these situations?

9 **New Spiritual Treasures:** We were delighted to receive the new book *Worship the Only True God.* How did the announcement explaining its purpose affect you? Why will it be helpful in our disciple-making work as the second study book?

10 Next we received the beautiful book *Draw Close to Jehovah.* What are some of its special features? Which illustrations do you especially appreciate? Has your reading of it drawn you closer to Jehovah? Who else might be able to benefit from it?

11 The "Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers" District Convention provided us with the spiritual encouragement we need to face these challenging times. So as to benefit fully from this outstanding spiritual provision, may we do our utmost to remember what was said, appreciate what we received, and apply what we learned. (2 Pet. 3:14) Doing so will strengthen us to maintain our integrity and to be zealous Kingdom proclaimers in imitation of our Lord Jesus Christ, all to Jehovah's glory. —Phil. 1:9-11.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting October 14

Song 103

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to read Numbers chapter 25 and *Insight,* Volume 2, page 419, paragraphs 3-5, and then watch the video *Warning Examples for Our Day* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of October 28. Using suggestions on page 8, have two demonstrations of how to present the October 15 *Watchtower* and the October 22 *Awake!* In each case, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I am already well acquainted with your work."—See *Reasoning* book, page 20.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "How Congregation Book Study Overseers Show Personal Interest." Question-and-answer discussion to be handled by a Congregation Book Study overseer. In introductory comments, briefly explain how the book study arrangement got started. (*jv* 237, par. 4) Arrange in advance for two or three publishers to comment on how they have benefited from personal interest shown to them through the Congregation Book Study.

Song 65 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 21

Song 206

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

35 min: "Benefiting Fully From the 'Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers' District Convention." To be handled by the *Watchtower* Study conductor. Following a one-minute introduction, conduct an audience discussion of the district convention program, using the questions provided in the article. Apportion your time carefully. Brief comments may be included to bring key points back to mind. When appropriate, ask the audience how they have been applying what they learned and what benefits they are receiving from doing so.

Song 194 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 28

Song 110

8 min: Local announcements. Encourage all to review their notes from the last special assembly day program in preparation for the discussion at next week's Service Meeting. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for October. Using the suggestions on page 8, have a sister demonstrate how to present the November 1 *Watchtower* and have a brother show how to present the November 8 *Awake!* After each demonstration, briefly highlight a positive aspect of the presentation.

12 min: Local experiences. Invite the congregation to relate experiences they have enjoyed while traveling to and from the district convention, while at the convention, or in witnessing informally at work, at school, when shopping, and so forth.

25 min: "A Warm Appeal to Heed *Warning Examples for Our Day.*" Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, then get right into an audience discussion of each question presented in the article. In December we will review the video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge.*

Song 41 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 4

Song 66

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly review a few suggestions from the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert for presenting the *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book. Demonstrate one of the presentations.

13 min: Not Ashamed of the Good News. (Rom. 1:16) Youth approaches father with a problem. Young person is reluctant to be identified as one of Jehovah's Witnesses because of fear of being ridiculed by peers. Father thanks youth for being honest about the matter. He relates how Peter once reacted because of peer pressure. (Matt. 26:69-74) Father offers the following advice: We should never be ashamed of who we are as Christians. (Mark 8:38) It is advantageous to identify yourself as a Witness at school. When informed, many teachers will respect your beliefs and not try to involve you in activities you find objectionable. Unprincipled youths are not as likely to try to pressure you into misconduct. Other classmates will more readily understand why you choose not to date, participate in extracurricular sports, or share in after-school activities. As time permits, the father and youth discuss points from the subheading "Publicly Declaring Your Friendship With God" in the *Young People Ask* book, pages 315-18. Teenager expresses appreciation for the good advice.

22 min: Subject Yourselves to God—Oppose the Devil. (Jas. 4:7) Using the questions provided here, an elder conducts a lively audience discussion of the special assembly day program that was held during the past service year. Invite congregation to relate how they have been able to apply what they learned. (Portions can be assigned in advance.) Highlight the following program parts: (1) "Subjection to God in an Enslaved World." Why must we be alert to avoid worldly snares? (2) "Manifesting Godly Subjection as Family Members." Why is there an urgent need within Jehovah's organization to strengthen family ties? How can we do so? (3) "Help New Disciples to Stand Firm on Jehovah's Side." How can we help new ones overcome obstacles that test their faith? (4) "What It Means to Oppose the Devil." What is the key to standing successfully against the Devil? How can the spiritual armor described at Ephesians 6:11-18 protect us? (*w*92 5/15 21-3) (5) "Youths Who Successfully Resist the Wicked One" and "Youths Who Benefit From Godly Subjection." What are some of Satan's devices that young people must guard against? How are young ones blessed by subjecting themselves to Jehovah? (*w*90 8/1 13-14, pars. 15-17) (6) "Benefiting From Godly Subjection." Explain how Christians demonstrate subjection to governmental authorities, to secular employers, in the family circle, and in the Christian congregation. What qualities will help us to do so?

Song 185 and concluding prayer.

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THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 2003

INSTRUCTIONS

During 2003 the following will be the arrangements for conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *The Watchtower* [*w*], *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* [*be*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* (1989 Edition) [*rs*].

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as follows:

SPEECH QUALITY: 5 minutes. The school overseer, the auxiliary counselor, or another qualified elder will discuss a speech quality based on the *Ministry School* textbook. (In congregations with a limited number of elders, a qualified ministerial servant may be used.) Unless otherwise indicated, the boxes appearing on the assigned pages should be included in the discussion. The exercises should be omitted. These are primarily for personal use and private counsel.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 10 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *The Watchtower, Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education,* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* It is to be delivered as a ten-minute instruction talk with no oral review. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. It is expected that brothers assigned this talk will be careful to *keep within the time limit*. Private counsel may be given as needed.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 10 minutes. For the first six minutes, a qualified elder or ministerial servant should effectively apply the material to local needs. He may comment on any portion of the assigned Bible reading for the week, since the brother handling the No. 2 assignment will not be commenting on the verses he reads. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. The principal objective is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value. Thereafter, for four minutes the speaker will invite the audience to participate by offering *brief* comments (30 seconds or less) on the following two questions: "What did you find in the Bible reading this week that will benefit you in your ministry or way of life?" and "What strengthened your faith and built your appreciation for Jehovah?" The school overseer will then dismiss the students who are assigned to other classrooms.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 4 minutes. This is a reading to be given by a brother. The reading will usually be from the Bible. Once a month this assignment will cover material drawn from *The Watchtower*. The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. From week to week, the amount of material to be read will vary slightly but should take four minutes or less. The school overseer should look over the material before making the assignments, matching such to the age and ability of the students. The school overseer will be especially interested in helping students to read with understanding, fluency, proper sense stress, modulation, appropriate pausing, and naturalness.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. Students receiving this assignment will either select a setting or be assigned one from the list appearing on page 82 of the *Ministry School* textbook. The student should use the assigned theme and apply it to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the territory of the local congregation. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in publications provided by the faithful and discreet slave class. Newer students should be assigned talks for which references are supplied. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the material and the way she helps the householder to reason on the Scriptures and to understand the key points of the presentation. Students assigned this part should know how to read. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. The student should develop the assigned theme. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in publications provided by the faithful and discreet slave class. When assigned to a brother, this part may be given as a talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should always be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3. Please note that subjects with asterisks should be assigned only to brothers to give as talks.

TIMING: No talk should go overtime, nor should the remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If brothers handling the opening talk on a speech quality, Assignment No. 1, or highlights from the Bible reading go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

COUNSEL: 1 minute. The school overseer will take no more than *one minute* after each student presentation to offer some positive observations on an aspect of the talk that was commendable. His aim is not simply to say "well done" but, rather, to draw attention to specific reasons why that aspect of the presentation was effective. According to the need of each student, additional constructive counsel may be given privately after the meeting or at another time.

AUXILIARY COUNSELOR: The body of elders may select a capable elder, if one is available in addition to the school overseer, to handle the assignment as auxiliary counselor. His responsibility will be to give private counsel, if needed, to brothers who present Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights. It is not necessary that he offer counsel after each of such talks by fellow elders or ministerial servants. This arrangement will be in effect during 2003 and may be adjusted thereafter.

COUNSEL FORM: In textbook.

ORAL REVIEW: 30 minutes. Every two months, the school overseer will conduct an oral review. It will be preceded by the consideration of a speech quality and highlights from the Bible reading as outlined above. The oral review will be based on material considered in the school over the preceding two months, including the current week.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 6 Bible reading: Matthew 1-6 Song 91
Speech Quality: Welcome to the Theocratic Ministry School (*be* p. 5 ¶1–p. 8 ¶1)
No. 1: Take Delight in God's Word (*be* p. 9 ¶1-5)
No. 2: Matthew 4:1-22
No. 3: How Does the Sign of the Last Days Affect True Christians? (*rs* p. 238 ¶2-3)
No. 4: What Is Jesus Doing Now?

Jan. 13 Bible reading: Matthew 7-11 Song 40
Speech Quality: Read the Bible Daily (*be* p. 10 ¶1–p. 12 ¶4)
No. 1: "Run in Such a Way" (*w*01 1/1 pp. 28-31)
No. 2: Matthew 9:9-31
No. 3: Why We Preach to Others
No. 4: Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Say That the Last Days Began in 1914? (*rs* p. 239 ¶2–p. 240 ¶1)

Jan. 20 Bible reading: Matthew 12-15 Song 133
Speech Quality: Accurate Reading (*be* p. 83 ¶1-5)
No. 1: You Can Cope With Discouragement! (*w*01 2/1 pp. 20-3)
No. 2: Matthew 13:1-23
No. 3: Will Anyone Be Alive on Earth After the End of the Present World System? (*rs* p. 240 ¶2-5)
No. 4: Does God Change?

Jan. 27 Bible reading: Matthew 16-21 Song 129
Speech Quality: How to Read Accurately (*be* p. 84 ¶1–p. 85 ¶3)
No. 1: The Fleeting Nature of Time (*si* pp. 278-9 ¶1-6)
No. 2: *w*01 1/15 p. 20 ¶20–p. 21 ¶24
No. 3: What Will Unite the World?
No. 4: Why Does God Allow So Much Time to Pass Before Destroying the Wicked? (*rs* p. 241 ¶1-3)

Feb. 3 Bible reading: Matthew 22-25 Song 139
Speech Quality: Words Clearly Spoken (*be* p. 86 ¶1-6)
No. 1: "Pay Attention to How You Listen" (*be* p. 13 ¶1–p. 14 ¶5)
No. 2: Matthew 22:15-40
No. 3: How We Know That the Sign Fits the Time in Which We Now Live (*rs* p. 241 ¶5–p. 242 ¶2)
No. 4: Who Really Is the Faithful and Discreet Slave?

Feb. 10 Bible reading: Matthew 26-28 Song 27
Speech Quality: How to Speak Clearly (*be* p. 87 ¶1–p. 88 ¶3)
No. 1: How to Find Real Happiness (*w*01 3/1 pp. 4-7)
No. 2: Matthew 26:6-30
No. 3: Why I Don't Use Drugs
No. 4: What Is the Purpose of Human Life? (*rs* p. 243 ¶3–p. 244 ¶4)

Feb. 17 Bible reading: Mark 1-4 Song 137
Speech Quality: Correct Pronunciation—Factors to Consider (*be* p. 89 ¶1–p. 90 ¶2)
No. 1: Biblical Time Indicators (*si* pp. 279-80 ¶7-13)
No. 2: *w*01 2/15 p. 25 ¶10–p. 26 ¶14
No. 3: Were Humans Made to Live Briefly and Then Die? (*rs* p. 245 ¶1-3)
No. 4: Why It Is Wrong to Gamble

Feb. 24 Bible reading: Mark 5-8 Song 72
Speech Quality: Ways to Improve Pronunciation (*be* p. 90 ¶3–p. 92)

Oral Review

Mar. 3 Bible reading: Mark 9-12 Song 195
Speech Quality: Fluent Delivery (*be* p. 93 ¶1–p. 94 ¶3)
No. 1: Listening to Talks, During Discussions, and at Assemblies and Conventions (*be* p. 15 ¶1–p. 16 ¶5)
No. 2: Mark 10:1-22
No. 3: How We Can Draw on God's Strength
No. 4: On What Basis Can We Hope to Live Forever? (*rs* p. 246 ¶5-7)

Mar. 10 Bible reading: Mark 13-16 Song 187
Speech Quality: How to Improve Fluency (*be* p. 94 ¶4–p. 96 ¶3, except box on p. 95)
No. 1: What Is the Spiritual Paradise? (*w*01 3/1 pp. 8-11)
No. 2: Mark 13:1-23
No. 3: How Will Prospects for Future Life Be Realized? (*rs* p. 246 ¶8–p. 247 ¶1)
No. 4: Does God Take Sides in Man's Wars?

Mar. 17 Bible reading: Luke 1-3 Song 13
Speech Quality: Coping With Stuttering (*be* p. 95, box)
No. 1: "Happy Is the Man That Has Found Wisdom" (*w*01 3/15 pp. 25-8)
No. 2: Luke 3:1-22
No. 3: Is It Proper to Worship Jesus?
No. 4: *Is It Important to Get Married in Accord With Legal Requirements? (*rs* p. 248 ¶2–p. 249 ¶2)

Mar. 24 Bible reading: Luke 4-6 Song 156
Speech Quality: Pausing for Punctuation and for Change of Thought (*be* p. 97 ¶1–p. 98 ¶5)
No. 1: Do You Feel Misunderstood? (*w*01 4/1 pp. 20-3)
No. 2: Luke 6:1-23
No. 3: What Is the Significance of the Memorial? (*rs* p. 266 ¶1–p. 267 ¶1)
No. 4: Can Christians Expect Divine Protection?

Mar. 31 Bible reading: Luke 7-9 Song 47
Speech Quality: Pausing to Emphasize, Pausing to Listen (*be* p. 99 ¶1–p. 100 ¶4)
No. 1: "Fear the True God and Keep His Commandments" (*be* p. 272 ¶1–p. 275 ¶3)
No. 2: *w*01 3/15 p. 18 ¶17–p. 19 ¶20
No. 3: How We Know That the Bible Is From God
No. 4: What Do the Memorial Emblems Represent? (*rs* p. 267 ¶2-3)

Apr. 7 Bible reading: Luke 10-12 Song 68
Speech Quality: Proper Sense Stress (*be* p. 101 ¶1–p. 102 ¶3)
No. 1: "Bearing Witness to Jesus" (*be* p. 275 ¶4–p. 278 ¶4)
No. 2: Luke 10:1-22
No. 3: Who Should Partake at the Lord's Evening Meal? (*rs* p. 267 ¶5–p. 268 ¶1)
No. 4: The First Wedding Involved What Formalities? (*rs* p. 249 ¶3-4)

Apr. 14 Bible reading: Luke 13-17 Song 208
Speech Quality: Improving Sense Stress (*be* p. 102 ¶4–p. 104 ¶4)
No. 1: "This Good News of the Kingdom" (*be* p. 279 ¶1–p. 281 ¶4)
No. 2: Luke 15:11-32
No. 3: How to Protect Ourselves From Demon Influence
No. 4: How Often Should the Memorial Be Commemorated, and When? (*rs* p. 269 ¶1-2)

Apr. 21 Bible reading: Luke 18-21 Song 23
Speech Quality: Principal Ideas Emphasized (*be* p. 105 ¶1–p. 106 ¶2)
No. 1: Jehovah's Wise and Loving Provision of Seasons (*si* p. 280 ¶14-17)
No. 2: *w*01 4/15 p. 6 ¶19–p. 7 ¶22
No. 3: How the Resurrection Hope Affects Our Life
No. 4: *Does the Bible Condone Polygamy? (*rs* p. 250 ¶1–p. 251 ¶2)

Apr. 28 Bible reading: Luke 22-24 Song 218
Speech Quality: Volume Suitable to the Audience (*be* p. 107 ¶1–p. 108 ¶4)

Oral Review

May 5 Bible reading: John 1-4 Song 31
Speech Quality: How to Improve Your Volume (*be* p. 108 ¶5–p. 110 ¶2)

No. 1: You Can Improve Your Memory (*be* p. 17 ¶1–p. 19 ¶1)

No. 2: John 2:1-25

No. 3: Does God Condemn the Use of Alcohol?

No. 4: * What Is God's View of Marital Separation? (*rs* p. 251 ¶3)

May 12 Bible reading: John 5-7 Song 150

Speech Quality: Modulation—Adjust Your Volume (*be* p. 111 ¶1–p. 112 ¶2)

No. 1: You Can Succeed Regardless of Your Upbringing (*w01* 4/15 pp. 25-8)

No. 2: John 5:1-24

No. 3: Why the Doctrine of Predestination Is Unreasonable

No. 4: * What Is the Bible's View of Divorce and Remarriage? (*rs* p. 252 ¶1-4)

May 19 Bible reading: John 8-11 Song 102

Speech Quality: Modulation—Change Your Pace (*be* p. 112 ¶3-6)

No. 1: 'By Wisdom Our Days Will Become Many' (*w01* 5/15 pp. 28-31)

No. 2: John 10:16-42

No. 3: In the Past, Why Did God Allow Marriage Between Brother and Sister? (*rs* p. 252 ¶5–p. 253 ¶1)

No. 4: How to Cope With Stress

May 26 Bible reading: John 12-16 Song 24

Speech Quality: Modulation—Vary Your Pitch (*be* p. 113 ¶1–p. 114 ¶3)

No. 1: The Year and the Holy Scriptures (*si* pp. 280-2 ¶18-23)

No. 2: *w01* 5/1 p. 14 ¶4–p. 15 ¶7

No. 3: What It Means to Be "No Part of the World"

No. 4: What Can Help to Improve a Marriage? (*rs* p. 253 ¶2-5)

June 2 Bible reading: John 17-21 Song 198

Speech Quality: Speak With Feeling (*be* p. 115 ¶1–p. 116 ¶4)

No. 1: The Role of God's Spirit in Remembering (*be* p. 19 ¶2–p. 20 ¶3)

No. 2: John 20:1-23

No. 3: What Can Help to Improve a Marriage? (*rs* p. 254 ¶1-4)

No. 4: Is Organized Religion Necessary?

June 9 Bible reading: Acts 1-4 Song 92

Speech Quality: Enthusiasm Appropriate to Material (*be* p. 116 ¶5–p. 117 ¶4)

No. 1: Strengthen Your Trust in Jehovah (*w01* 6/1 pp. 7-10)

No. 2: Acts 4:1-22

No. 3: What Can We Learn From the Bible Record About Mary? (*rs* p. 254 ¶5–p. 255 ¶2)

No. 4: Does God Care How We Worship?

June 16 Bible reading: Acts 5-7 Song 2

Speech Quality: Expressing Warmth (*be* p. 118 ¶1–p. 119 ¶5)

No. 1: Confession That Leads to Healing (*w01* 6/1 pp. 28-31)

No. 2: Acts 7:1-22

No. 3: How Jehovah's Witnesses Differ From Other Religions

No. 4: Was Mary Truly a Virgin When She Gave Birth to Jesus? (*rs* p. 255 ¶3-4)

June 23 Bible reading: Acts 8-10 Song 116

Speech Quality: Expressing Emotion (*be* p. 119 ¶6–p. 120 ¶5)

No. 1: Look After Orphans and Widows in Their Tribulation (*w01* 6/15 pp. 9-12)

No. 2: *w01* 6/1 p. 12 ¶1–p. 13 ¶5

No. 3: Was Mary Always a Virgin? (*rs* p. 255 ¶5–p. 256 ¶2)

No. 4: * Why Attending Meetings Is Vital to Spiritual Growth

June 30 Bible reading: Acts 11-14 Song 167

Speech Quality: The Importance of Gestures and Facial Expressions (*be* p. 121 ¶1-4)

Oral Review

July 7 Bible reading: Acts 15-17 Song 38

Speech Quality: Using Gestures and Facial Expressions (*be* p. 122 ¶1–p. 123 ¶2)

No. 1: Why Apply Yourself to Reading? (*be* p. 21 ¶1–p. 23 ¶3)

No. 2: Acts 15:1-21

No. 3: How We Uphold Jehovah's Sovereignty

No. 4: Was Mary the Mother of God? (*rs* p. 256 ¶3–p. 257 ¶2)

July 14 Bible reading: Acts 18-21 Song 32

Speech Quality: Visual Contact in the Ministry (*be* p. 124 ¶1–p. 125 ¶4)

No. 1: Do Not Let Doubts Destroy Your Faith (*w01* 7/1 pp. 18-21)

No. 2: Acts 19:1-22

No. 3: #Was Mary Immaculately Conceived? (*rs* p. 257 ¶3–p. 258 ¶1)

No. 4: What It Means to 'Keep On Seeking First the Kingdom'

July 21 Bible reading: Acts 22-25 Song 222

Speech Quality: Visual Contact When Giving a Discourse (*be* p. 125 ¶5–p. 127 ¶1)

No. 1: Are You Truly Tolerant? (*w01* 7/15 pp. 21-3)

No. 2: Acts 24:1-23

No. 3: Is the Devil Real?

No. 4: #Did Mary Ascend to Heaven With Her Body of Flesh? (*rs* p. 258 ¶2-3)

July 28 Bible reading: Acts 26-28 Song 14

Speech Quality: Naturalness in the Field Ministry (*be* p. 128 ¶1–p. 129 ¶1)

No. 1: No Zero Year (*si* p. 282 ¶24-6)

No. 2: *w01* 7/1 p. 14 ¶5-8

No. 3: Is It Proper to Address Prayers to Mary as Intercessor? (*rs* p. 258 ¶4–p. 259 ¶1)

No. 4: How We Show Respect for the Gift of Life

Aug. 4 Bible reading: Romans 1-4 Song 106

Speech Quality: Naturalness on the Platform (*be* p. 129 ¶2–p. 130 ¶1)

No. 1: How to Apply Yourself to Reading (*be* p. 23 ¶4–p. 26 ¶5)

No. 2: Romans 2:1-24

No. 3: Have You Ever Lived Before?

No. 4: Was Mary Specially Honored in the First-Century Christian Congregation? (*rs* p. 259 ¶3–p. 260 ¶3)

Aug. 11 Bible reading: Romans 5-8 Song 179

Speech Quality: Naturalness When Reading Publicly (*be* p. 130 ¶2-4)

No. 1: 'Blessings Are for the Righteous One' (*w01* 7/15 pp. 24-7)

No. 2: Romans 5:6-21

No. 3: #Do You Believe in the Virgin Mary? (*rs* p. 260 ¶4–p. 261 ¶2)

No. 4: Should You Believe in Reincarnation?

Aug. 18 Bible reading: Romans 9-12 Song 206

Speech Quality: Personal Cleanliness Adorns the Message (*be* p. 131 ¶1-3)

No. 1: Let Force of Habit Work for Your Good (*w01* 8/1 pp. 19-22)

No. 2: *w01* 8/15 p. 22 ¶10-13

No. 3: Have Men Changed the Bible?

No. 4: Is Transubstantiation Factual? (*rs* p. 262 ¶1–p. 263 ¶2)

Aug. 25 Bible reading: Romans 13-16 Song 43

Speech Quality: How Modesty and Soundness of Mind Affect One's Dress and Grooming (*be* p. 131 ¶4–p. 132 ¶3)

Oral Review

Sept. 1 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 1-9 Song 48

Speech Quality: The Value of Well-Arranged Dress (*be* p. 132 ¶4–p. 133 ¶1)

No. 1: How to Study (*be* p. 27 ¶1–p. 31 ¶2)

No. 2: 1 Corinthians 3:1-23

No. 3: What Does John 6:53-57 Mean? (*rs* p. 263 ¶3-4)

No. 4: Does Poverty Ever Justify Stealing?

Sept. 8 Bible reading: 1 Corinthians 10-16 Song 123

Speech Quality: Good Personal Appearance Gives No Cause for Stumbling (*be* p. 133 ¶2-4)

No. 1: Overcome Obstacles to Your Progress! (*w01* 8/1 pp. 28-30)

No. 2: 1 Corinthians 12:1-26

No. 3: Why Does God Let Bad Things Happen?

No. 4: Did Jesus Institute the Celebration of Mass? (*rs* p. 264 ¶1–p. 265 ¶5)

Sept. 15 Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 1-7 Song 16

Speech Quality: Good Posture and Neat Equipment (*be* p. 133 ¶5–p. 134 ¶4)

No. 1: Making Your Youth a Success (*w*01 8/15 pp. 4-7)

No. 2: 2 Corinthians 6:1–7:1

No. 3: A Christian's Attitude Toward Secular Authority (*rs* p. 270 ¶1-3)

No. 4: Does God Care About the Pollution of the Earth?

Sept. 22 Bible reading: 2 Corinthians 8-13 Song 207

Speech Quality: How to Reduce Speaking Anxiety (*be* p. 135 ¶1–p. 137 ¶2)

No. 1: How You Can Make Good Decisions (*w*01 9/1 pp. 27-30)

No. 2: 2 Corinthians 8:1-21

No. 3: What Happens to the Soul After Death

No. 4: Scriptures That Bear on a Christian's Attitude Toward Carnal Warfare (*rs* p. 271 ¶1-4)

Sept. 29 Bible reading: Galatians 1-6 Song 163

Speech Quality: How to Acquire Poise (*be* p. 137 ¶3–p. 138 ¶5)

No. 1: The Great Value of Pivotal Dates (*si* pp. 282-3 ¶27-30)

No. 2: *w*01 9/1 p. 15 ¶8–p. 17 ¶11

No. 3: Under What Circumstances Did God Allow the Israelites to Engage in Warfare? (*rs* p. 271 ¶5–p. 273 ¶1)

No. 4: How We Know That God's Kingdom Rules

Oct. 6 Bible reading: Ephesians 1-6 Song 99

Speech Quality: The Importance of Voice Amplification (*be* p. 139 ¶1–p. 140 ¶1)

No. 1: Study Is Rewarding (*be* p. 31 ¶3–p. 32 ¶4)

No. 2: Ephesians 2:1-22

No. 3: Faith in God Is Realistic

No. 4: What Scriptures Influence a Christian's View of Involvement in Political Issues? (*rs* p. 273 ¶2–p. 274 ¶1)

Oct. 13 Bible reading: Philippians 1–Colossians 4 Song 105

Speech Quality: Use Microphones Effectively (*be* p. 140 ¶2–p. 142 ¶1)

No. 1: Walk in 'the Path of Uprightness' (*w*01 9/15 pp. 24-8)

No. 2: Philippians 2:1-24

No. 3: What Scriptures Influence a Christian's Attitude Toward Patriotic Ceremonies? (*rs* p. 274 ¶2–p. 275 ¶3)

No. 4: What Jehovah Asks of Us Today

Oct. 20 Bible reading: 1 Thessalonians 1–2 Thessalonians 3 Song 145

Speech Quality: Use of Bible in Replying (*be* p. 143 ¶1-3)

No. 1: Jehovah's View of Time (*si* pp. 283-4 ¶31-3)

No. 2: *w*01 10/15 p. 23 ¶6–p. 24 ¶9

No. 3: Who Go to Heaven?

No. 4: Does Their Neutrality Mean That Christians Are Disinterested in Their Neighbor's Welfare? (*rs* p. 276 ¶1)

Oct. 27 Bible reading: 1 Timothy 1–2 Timothy 4 Song 46

Speech Quality: How to Improve in Using the Bible (*be* p. 144 ¶1-4)

Oral Review

Nov. 3 Bible reading: Titus 1–Philemon Song 30

Speech Quality: Use of Bible Encouraged (*be* pp. 145-6)

No. 1: How to Do Research With the Bible (*be* p. 33 ¶1–p. 35 ¶2)

No. 2: Philemon 1-25

No. 3: Will Living in Perfection Be Boring?

No. 4: Why Is the Name Jehovah Used in the *New World Translation* of the Christian Greek Scriptures? (*rs* p. 278 ¶1-3)

Nov. 10 Bible reading: Hebrews 1-8 Song 149

Speech Quality: The Importance of Introducing Scriptures Effectively (*be* p. 147 ¶1–p. 148 ¶2)

No. 1: Enoch Walked With God in an Ungodly World (*w*01 9/15 pp. 29-31)

No. 2: Hebrews 2:1-18

No. 3: #Responding to Those Who Say, 'You Have Your Own Bible' (*rs* p. 279 ¶1-4)

No. 4: How Will Resurrected Ones Be Judged According to Their Deeds?

Nov. 17 Bible reading: Hebrews 9-13 Song 144

Speech Quality: Selecting Appropriate Comments to Introduce Scriptures (*be* p. 148 ¶3–p. 149 ¶2)

No. 1: What Does It Mean to Be Loyal? (*w*01 10/1 pp. 20-3)

No. 2: Hebrews 9:11-28

No. 3: Are God's Heavenly Creatures Organized? (*rs* p. 280 ¶2-3)

No. 4: Why It Is Beneficial to Practice Godly Conduct

Nov. 24 Bible reading: James 1-5 Song 88

Speech Quality: Proper Emphasis Involves Feeling (*be* p. 150 ¶1-2)

No. 1: Measuring Events in the Stream of Time (*si* pp. 284-5 ¶1-4)

No. 2: *w*01 11/1 p. 12 ¶15–p. 13 ¶19

No. 3: The Value of Modesty

No. 4: How Did God Convey Instructions to His Servants on Earth in Times Past? (*rs* p. 281 ¶1-2)

Dec. 1 Bible reading: 1 Peter 1–2 Peter 3 Song 54

Speech Quality: Emphasize the Right Words (*be* p. 150 ¶3–p. 151 ¶2)

No. 1: Learning to Use Other Research Tools (*be* p. 35 ¶3–p. 38 ¶4)

No. 2: 1 Peter 1:1-16

No. 3: Does the Bible Show That True Christians Would Be Organized? (*rs* p. 282 ¶1-4)

No. 4: How Christ's Ransom Sacrifice Should Affect Our Life

Dec. 8 Bible reading: 1 John 1–Jude Song 22

Speech Quality: Methods of Emphasis (*be* p. 151 ¶3–p. 152 ¶5)

No. 1: Safeguard Your Conscience (*w*01 11/1 pp. 4-7)

No. 2: 1 John 3:1-18

No. 3: Why the Bible Cannot Be Blamed for Disrespectful Treatment of Women

No. 4: Are God's Faithful Servants Simply Scattered Among Christendom's Churches? (*rs* p. 283 ¶1-3)

Dec. 15 Bible reading: Revelation 1-6 Song 219

Speech Quality: Scriptures Correctly Applied (*be* p. 153 ¶1–p. 154 ¶3)

No. 1: Noah's Faith Condemns the World (*w*01 11/15 pp. 28-31)

No. 2: Revelation 2:1-17

No. 3: How Can the Visible Part of Jehovah's Organization Be Identified? (*rs* p. 283 ¶4–p. 284 ¶2)

No. 4: Why Christmas Is Not for Christians

Dec. 22 Bible reading: Revelation 7-14 Song 6

Speech Quality: Making Scripture Application Clear (*be* p. 154 ¶4–p. 155 ¶4)

No. 1: You Can Avoid a Spiritual Heart Attack (*w*01 12/1 pp. 9-13)

No. 2: *w*01 12/15 p. 17 ¶10–p. 18 ¶13 (including footnote)

No. 3: How to Cope With Peer Pressure

No. 4: How Can We Show Respect for Jehovah's Organization? (*rs* p. 284 ¶3-7)

Dec. 29 Bible reading: Revelation 15-22 Song 60

Speech Quality: Reason From the Scriptures (*be* p. 155 ¶5–p. 156 ¶5)

Oral Review

*Assign to brothers only.

#As time permits, consider responses to assertions, objections, and so forth that will best meet needs in the local territory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* If people already have these, an older publication may be offered. You may check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand if you do not have any in stock. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* If the congregation does not have a supply of any of the alternative offers, please check to see if any nearby congregations have a surplus on hand that you can use. **January:** Any book published prior to 1988 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Mankind's Search for God.*

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2003" and should be kept for reference throughout 2003.

■ If the meeting times for your congregation will change January 1, the congregation secretary should notify the branch office of the changes by submitting the Congregation Meeting Information and Handbill Request form (S-5). If needed, a new supply of handbills can be ordered on the same form. Handbills should be requested at least eight weeks before you wish to receive them.

■ New Publications Available:

Would You Like to Know More About the Bible? (Tract No. 26) —Fijian, Gilbertese, Macedonian, Malayalam, Marathi, Persian, Punjabi (Gurmukhi), Sinhala, Tamil, Telugu, Tuvaluan

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Appreciating Our Spiritual Heritage—On Audiocassette (Drama, single cassette) —Greek, Swedish

Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; The Song of Solomon (set of two audiocassettes) —Norwegian

Warning Examples for Our Day —On Audiocassette (Drama, single cassette) —Estonian, Greek

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Our Whole Association of Brothers —Italian

Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends? —Korean, Romanian, Thai

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**107**	**119.7**	**105.8**	**55.6**	**5.4**
Pios.	**83,165**	**62.4**	**43.2**	**20.6**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**23,337**	**50.3**	**35.7**	**11.9**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**863,309**	**9.5**	**8.6**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**969,918**		Baptized:	**4,765**	

A Warm Appeal to Heed *Warning Examples for Our Day*

All of us can fortify our determination to maintain our integrity by taking to heart the lessons learned from the Bible drama portrayed in the video *Warning Examples for Our Day.* Before watching it, please read Numbers chapter 25 and the background material in *Insight on the Scriptures,* Volume 2, page 419, paragraphs 3-5. Then answer these questions: Who were the Moabites, and why did Jehovah tell Moses not to wage war against them? (Deut. 2:9) How did Balaam scheme to use the Moabites to destroy the nation of Israel? Why should we not forget that many Israelites failed a vital test just before entering the Promised Land? —1 Cor. 10:11, 12.

While watching the *Warning Examples* video, think about the following four areas of life that we must give serious attention to today if we are to prove faithful and enjoy God's favor. **(1) Attitude:** How had some Israelites shown a wrong attitude toward Jehovah and his arrangements? Instead, what attitude should we strive to reflect? **(2) Associations:** Why did Jehovah not want the Israelites to become friends with the Moabites? (Ex. 34:12; Prov. 13:20) Why must we choose our friends wisely? **(3) Morals:** Into what serious sin did bad associations lead some 23,000 Israelites? (1 Cor. 10:8) Today, what has lured some of God's people into committing immorality, but how can we protect ourselves? **(4) Worship:** How were the Israelites tested as to the purity of their worship? To what subtle form of idolatry might some succumb today, but how can we avoid it? —Col. 3:5.

In the drama, how was Jamin blessed for his moral integrity? By means of this video, what warm appeal is the Governing Body making to all true Christians? If you are a family head, why do you feel it would be wise for your household to view this program again and again?

How Congregation Book Study Overseers Show Personal Interest

[1] The Congregation Book Study is designed to make it “possible for more personal attention to be given to the spiritual growth of each individual. . . . Here is a reflection of Jehovah’s loving-kindness and his tender care for his people.” (*om* p. 75; Isa. 40:11) The book study overseer plays a key role in providing such personal attention.

[2] **At the Book Study:** Since book study groups are purposely kept small, the book study overseer is able to get to know the members of his group well. (Prov. 27:23) Usually there are opportunities to associate before or after the study each week. In the course of a month, he may be able to converse with nearly every person in the group. This helps the members of the book study to feel comfortable approaching him when they are facing trials or need encouragement.—Isa. 32:2.

[3] The book study overseer tries to encourage all in the group to participate during the study. One way he does this is by conducting the study in a kind, gentle manner. (1 Thess. 2:7, 8) He looks for ways to involve all in the discussion, including younger ones. If some are timid about commenting, he may offer private assistance by arranging in advance for them to read a scripture or to comment on a particular paragraph. Or he may show them how to comment in their own words.

[4] If the book study overseer’s assistant is a ministerial servant, the overseer arranges for him to conduct the study once every two months. This allows the overseer to observe the assistant and offer helpful suggestions. What a fine arrangement to help brothers improve their art of teaching!—Titus 1:9.

[5] **In the Field Ministry:** One of the principal responsibilities of the book study overseer is to take the lead in evangelizing. (Num. 27:16, 17) He makes practical arrangements for group witnessing and strives to help all in the group find joy in their ministry. (Eph. 4:11, 12) To accomplish this, he makes it a goal to work in service with each member of the group. He also works with the service overseer to arrange for those who would like to improve some aspect of their ministry to receive assistance from a more experienced publisher.

[6] **As a Loving Shepherd:** The book study overseer is interested in those who because of their circumstances are able to have only a small share in the preaching work. He makes sure that those who are very limited because of advanced age or because of being shut-ins and those who are temporarily limited because of serious illness or injury are aware of the provision that allows them to report field service time in 15-minute increments if they are not able to report a complete hour during one month. (The Congregation Service Committee determines who qualifies for this provision.) He also takes an interest in those assigned to the group who may be inactive, striving to help them resume their activity with the congregation.—Luke 15:4-7.

[7] How grateful we are for the loving interest shown by book study overseers! The personal attention they provide helps “all attain to the oneness in the faith . . . , to the measure of stature that belongs to the fullness of the Christ.”—Eph. 4:13.

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Oct. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“How would you explain to children or others why so many bad things happen today? [Allow for response.] The Bible answers the question, ‘Who Is Behind All Evil?’ [Read 1 John 5:19.] This issue of *The Watchtower* will help you to understand who that wicked one is and how we can oppose him.”

Awake! Oct. 22

“Do you think that the prayers of religious leaders or anyone else can bring about world peace? [Allow for response.] The Bible promises a time of global peace. [Read Isaiah 9:6, 7.] Did you notice that a special ruler would bring about world peace? This issue of *Awake!* shows who that ruler is and how he will bring genuine peace.”

THE WATCHTOWER Nov. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM

“Many of us try to have peaceful relations with others. But you will likely agree that it is often easier said than done. [Allow for response.] The Bible explains why this is so. [Read James 3:2.] This article shows how an apology may be the key to restoring and maintaining peace.”

Awake! Nov. 8

“Bible prophecy indicates that a time is coming when no one will say, ‘I am sick.’ [Read Isaiah 33:24.] Wouldn’t that be wonderful? [Allow for response.] However, today mankind is afflicted with many diseases, including the plague of AIDS. This issue of *Awake!* answers the question, Will AIDS ever be halted?”

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 11/02 Vol. 45, No. 11

Make Known the Truth About Jesus

1 Anointed Christians, assisted by their other sheep companions, "have the work of bearing witness to Jesus." (Rev. 12:17) This is an important assignment, since salvation is possible only through him.—John 17:3; Acts 4:12.

2 **'The Way, the Truth, and the Life':** "I am the way and the truth and the life," Jesus said. "No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6) Only through Jesus, "the way," can we approach God in prayer and have an approved relationship with Him. (John 15:16) Jesus is "the truth" in that the prophecies and shadows contained in the Hebrew Scriptures became a reality in him. (John 1:17; Col. 2:16, 17) Indeed, the primary intent of true prophecy is to illuminate his central role in the outworking of God's purpose. (Rev. 19:10) Further, Jesus is "the life." To gain the blessing of everlasting life, all must exercise faith in his ransom sacrifice.—John 3:16, 36; Heb. 2:9.

3 **Head and Reigning King:** People must also recognize the vast executive authority Jehovah has entrusted to his Son. Jesus has been installed as King of God's Kingdom—'to him the obedience of the peoples belongs.' (Gen. 49:10) In addition, Jehovah has designated him as the Head of the congregation. (Eph. 1:22, 23) We need to help our Bible students to appreciate how Jesus directs the congregation and uses "the faithful and discreet slave" to supply spiritual "food at the proper time."—Matt. 24:45-47.

4 **Merciful High Priest:** Having experienced trials and suffering as a human, Jesus "is able to come to the aid of those who are being put to the test." (Heb. 2:17, 18) How heartwarming it is for imperfect humans to learn that Jesus sympathizes with their weaknesses and graciously pleads for them! (Rom. 8:34) On the basis of Jesus' sacrifice and through his services as High Priest, we can approach Jehovah "with freeness of speech" in order to obtain "help at the right time."—Heb. 4:15, 16.

5 May our efforts to acquaint others with the truth about Jesus move them to obey and serve him alongside us.—John 14:15, 21.

Assist Your Congregation Book Study Overseer

1 Each of us derives many benefits from the Congregation Book Study. Last month we discussed how the Congregation Book Study overseer fulfills his role. But what can we do to assist him and thus benefit ourselves and others?

2 **Attend Every Week:** Because book study groups are kept small, your presence makes a difference. Make it your aim to attend every week. You can also help by being punctual, as this allows the overseer to begin the meeting in an orderly manner. —1 Cor. 14:40.

3 **Upbuilding Comments:** Another way you can assist is by being well prepared and by making upbuilding comments. Comments that focus on just one point are usually best, and this also encourages others to comment. Avoid trying to cover everything in a paragraph. If a point in the material touches your heart, enrich the discussion by sharing your thought in a comment.—1 Pet. 4:10.

4 If you have the privilege of reading the paragraphs for the benefit of the group, be diligent in fulfilling that assignment. Good reading contributes to the success of the study.—1 Tim. 4:13.

5 **Group Witnessing:** Meetings for field service are held at many book study locations, and your support of these arrangements helps the overseer as he takes the lead in the evangelizing work. View these arrangements as opportunities to draw closer to your brothers and to encourage them.

6 **Field Service Reports:** Submitting your field service report promptly at the end of each month is another way to assist the overseer. You may hand your report directly to him or place it in the box designated for service reports at the Kingdom Hall. The secretary can use the box to gather the field service reports collected by book study overseers.

7 Your cooperation with your Congregation Book Study overseer will not go unnoticed. Above all, you can be assured that Jehovah will "be with the spirit you show."—Phil. 4:23.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 11

Song 183

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, have two separate demonstrations of how to present the November 15 *Watchtower* and the November 22 *Awake!* In one of the demonstrations, explain how our worldwide work is financed.—See *The Watchtower,* page 2, or *Awake!* page 5.

15 min: Supporters of True Worship—Then and Now. A talk based on the November 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 26-30.

20 min: "Assist Your Congregation Book Study Overseer."* To be handled by an elder who is a Congregation Book Study overseer. When discussing paragraph 3, include comments on the *Ministry School* book, page 70. Commend the congregation for specific ways in which they support the book study arrangement, and kindly draw attention to any areas in which improvement is needed.

Song 114 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 18

Song 78

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Outline special field service arrangements for November 28. Discuss the box "Very Good Reading!"

10 min: Question Box. Talk by a capable elder.

25 min: "Family Heads—Maintain a Good Spiritual Routine." After a brief introductory talk based on paragraphs 1-3, conduct an audience discussion of paragraphs 4-13. As time permits, read paragraphs 7, 8, 11, and 12. Include an interview of one or two parents. What has helped their family to have an orderly routine of spiritual activities? What effort has this involved? How have they benefited? Conclude with brief comments based on paragraph 14.

Song 31 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 25

Song 16

10 min: Local announcements. A married couple working together in field service demonstrate how to use the suggestions on page 8 to offer the December 1 and December 8 magazines. The husband features *The Watchtower,* and the wife features *Awake!*

15 min: "Make Known the Truth About Jesus."* Include comments on the *Ministry School* book, page 278. Encourage all to bring the textbook to next week's Service Meeting for the part "A School That Equips Us for What Matters Most."

20 min: "Show Loving Interest in 'Fatherless Boys.'" Open with a three-minute talk on Jehovah's view of fatherless boys and girls, based on paragraph 1 and on *Insight,* Volume 1, page 816. Using questions and answers, consider the remainder of the article. Highlight practical ways others can provide assistance and encouragement. When discussing paragraphs 3-4, include brief comments on the October 8, 1995, *Awake!,* pages 8-9.

Song 142 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 2

Song 213

8 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in their field service reports for November. Briefly review a presentation that could be used when offering the *Greatest Man* book.—See the June 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8.

12 min: Local needs.

25 min: "A School That Equips Us for What Matters Most." Audience discussion to be handled by the school overseer. Build enthusiasm for the new school program, which will begin in January. Draw attention to features of the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2003," in the October 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Outline the requirements to join the school, as set forth in the *Ministry School* book, page 282, and encourage those who have not yet done so to enroll if they qualify.

Song 127 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

Very Good Reading!

Would you not agree that the following titles of past *Watchtower* articles sound like very good reading?

"God Knows and Protects His Own"

"Progress Toward Taming the Tongue"

"When Christianity Went Underground"

"Preaching Effectively at the Doors"

"Answering the Question, Are You Saved?"

These articles and scores of others appeared in *The Watchtower* during the years 1951 and 1952. Are they too old for us to benefit from them now? Far from it! You can still obtain *Watchtower* bound volumes in English for the years 1951 and 1952. (Some English bound volumes for the years 1953 through 1959 are also available.) Any publishers who desire these *Watchtower* bound volumes may now request them through the congregation literature servant.

The Theocratic Ministry School overseer should check to see if any bound volumes are missing from the Kingdom Hall library and order accordingly.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**105**	**114.7**	**102.1**	**51.8**	**5.1**
Pios.	**86,737**	**55.8**	**37.8**	**18.2**	**1.7**
Aux. Pios.	**20,523**	**49.5**	**37.0**	**12.5**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**904,836**	**9.3**	**8.6**	**3.5**	**0.3**

TOTAL **1,012,201** Baptized: **1,929**

August proved to be a month of outstanding activity. The total number of publishers reporting was 1,012,201. This is the second time that we have exceeded one million publishers!

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A School That Equips Us for What Matters Most

1 People go to school to get instruction that will help them reach their goals in life. What goal, however, could be more important than praising the very Giver of life and aiding others in learning his purposes and his ways? None. The objective of the Theocratic Ministry School is to prepare us to teach our faith to others. Thus, as we attend the school each week, we are acquiring skills that equip us for life's most important activities.

2 The "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2003" was provided in last month's issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* The schedule includes details as to how the school will be conducted. You may find it practical to keep the schedule in your copy of *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education,* which you should bring with you to the Theocratic Ministry School each week. Consider some of the features of the Theocratic Ministry School for 2003.

3 **Speech Quality:** Starting in January, each meeting will begin with a five-minute talk about a speech quality or an aspect of reading, studying, or teaching. The school overseer will present these opening discussions, or he may assign another qualified elder to give this talk. The speaker may discuss the definition and importance of the speech quality. He should then enlarge on the material by discussing Scriptural examples and demonstrating how to employ the quality, focusing particular attention on how doing so can enhance our field ministry.

4 **Assignment No. 1:** Brothers assigned to give the instruction talk are again advised to "focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed." This means showing the congregation how to make use of the information. If you receive this assignment, consult pages 48-9 of the *Ministry School* textbook for suggestions on how to prepare, and study the references shown in the book's index under "Practical application."

5 **Bible Reading Schedule:** If, in times past, you have not been able to keep up with the weekly Bible reading, why not resolve to stick to the schedule this year? Those who do so will complete the Christian Greek Scriptures by the end of the year. The benefits of starting a Bible-reading program with the Christian Greek Scriptures are considered on page 10, paragraph 4, of the *Ministry School* book.

6 **Highlights From Bible Reading:** This part has been lengthened to ten minutes so that the audience can offer comments on the week's reading. Those assigned should stick to the allotted time. It will be presented every week, including the week of the oral review. As you read the assigned chapters, look for points that will benefit you in your family study, in your ministry, or in your way of life. What qualities of Jehovah were manifested in his dealings with people and nations? What did you learn that strengthened your faith and built your appreciation for Jehovah? Feel free to comment on any point in the assigned chapters, even from verses to be read during Assignment No. 2, since the brother handling the reading will not comment on the verses.

7 **Assignment No. 2:** The first student assignment each week will be an exercise in public reading. All but the last reading for each month will be drawn from the week's Bible reading. The final reading of the month will be taken from *The Watchtower.* The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. In this way, he can focus his primary attention on his reading skills.—1 Tim. 4:13.

8 **Assignments No. 3 and No. 4:** Some of these assignments have more source material from the *Reasoning* book than others; some have just a theme. Those given assignments with limited source material or with just a theme will have the opportunity to develop their presentations by doing research in our Christian publications. This may make it easier for sisters to tailor their comments to their assistants.

9 **Settings:** As indicated on page 45 of the *Ministry School* book, the school overseer

may assign a setting. If he does not, then sisters may select a setting from the list on page 82. If a sister gives one talk every two months, the 30 settings will provide enough variety to last for five years. Sisters choosing No. 30, namely, "Another setting appropriate to your area," should write the setting at the bottom or on the back of their assignment slip (S-89). The school overseer will write the date of the student's talk on page 82 of her book next to the setting that she used. He can do this at the same time that he marks the student's counsel form.

[10] **Counsel Form:** Your counsel form is bound into your book. It appears on pages 79-81. Thus, you will need to present your book to the school overseer after each talk that you give. The school overseer will need to maintain a record of the counsel points on which the students are working.

[11] **Oral Review:** The Theocratic Ministry School review will be conducted orally. It will be held once every two months and will last for 30 minutes. Questions to be considered during the review will continue to appear in *Our Kingdom Ministry.* If the week scheduled for the oral review coincides with the week of a circuit assembly or the circuit overseer's visit, then the next week's talks should be given one week early and the oral review should be rescheduled for the following week.

[12] **Auxiliary Classes:** In congregations with a school enrollment larger than 50, the elders may consider the use of auxiliary classes. "This arrangement might be used for all student presentations or just for the last two." (*Ministry School,* p. 285) The latter suggestion is made to accommodate congregations in which there are many sisters but only a few brothers to care for reading assignments. The elders should select qualified brothers to conduct these classes.

[13] **Auxiliary Counselor:** As indicated in the Theocratic Ministry School schedule, an auxiliary counselor should be designated by the body of elders to offer private counsel to elders and ministerial servants who present Bible highlights and give instruction talks. The brother assigned to do this should be experienced, one whose counsel will be respected by the other elders. His counsel should be constructive, commending good speaking and teaching techniques and recommending one or two points for improvement. There is no need to offer counsel after every talk given by a brother who speaks frequently. However, the brother assigned to do this counseling should be discerning and appreciate that even brothers who now give public talks can be helped to make further progress.—1 Tim. 4:15.

[14] **What to Listen For:** What can assist a counselor in analyzing a presentation? The third box in most of the 53 numbered chapters of the *Ministry School* book contains a brief summary of what to listen for. The school overseer should also take note of other reminders or suggestions in the book that will help him to assess quickly the coherent development and effectiveness of a presentation. For example, note the series of questions at the top of page 55 and the ideas in the last paragraph on page 163.

[15] **Fill in the Blanks:** In addition to its wide margins, the *Ministry School* book has a number of blank spaces designed for you to add notes during your personal study and when you attend the Theocratic Ministry School. (See pages 77, 92, 165, 243, 246, and 250.) Be sure to bring your book with you each week. Follow along during the opening talk. Keep your book open for the remainder of the school. Note the suggestions made by the school overseer. Pay attention to teaching methods, questions, examples, figures of speech, illustrations, visual aids, and contrasts used by the speakers. By taking good notes, you will be able to recall and use the many rich points gleaned from the school.

[16] Jesus Christ appreciated that preaching the good news of God's Kingdom is the greatest privilege that can be extended to anyone. It was his main commission. (Mark 1:38) He said: "I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this I was sent forth." (Luke 4:43) As those who have accepted the invitation to follow him, we too are intensely occupied with preaching the good news, and we are always striving to improve the quality of our "sacrifice of praise." (Heb. 13:15) To that end, may we be determined to participate regularly in the Theocratic Ministry School, a school that will help to prepare us for what matters most in life.

Family Heads—Maintain a Good Spiritual Routine

[1] Despite living for decades amid the idolatry and corruption of Babylon, Daniel was known for serving Jehovah "with constancy." (Dan. 6:16, 20) How did he maintain his spirituality? The Bible record indicates that he had an orderly routine for carrying out activities related to true worship. For example, he customarily prayed three times a day from his roof chamber. (Dan. 6:10) Undoubtedly, he also had a set pattern for other spiritual activities, such as reading the Law. Thus, when confronted by a life-threatening trial, Daniel was unwavering in his devotion to Jehovah, and he was miraculously delivered.—Dan. 6: 4-22.

[2] Similarly today, we must exert ourselves to "keep awake with all constancy." (Eph. 6:18) The world we live in is "lying in the power of the wicked one." (1 John 5:19) Opposition or trials can arise suddenly and put our faith to the test. During the great tribulation, God's servants will be the object of an all-out attack by Gog of Magog, from which there will appear to be no escape. This will call for complete trust in Jehovah.—Ezek. 38:14-16.

[3] "One vital key is making effective family Bible reading, study, and discussion a way of life." So stated the introduction to the 1998 district convention drama entitled "Families—Make Daily Bible Reading Your Way of Life!" It continued: "When families follow such a program regularly and in a manner that makes the Bible come alive, this Bible-oriented routine can have a tremendous impact on the family. It builds our knowledge. It strengthens our faith. And it provides us with role models—profoundly faithful men and women of ancient times—who can inspire us, moving us to stand up for the truth." As we consider various aspects of a good spiritual routine, family heads should look for one or two ways to improve their family's spiritual program.

[4] **Consider God's Word Daily:** "When God's Kingdom rules unopposed and his will is done on earth as it is in heaven, no vicious humans —no, not even animals—will 'do any harm or cause any ruin.' (Isa. 11:9; Matt. 6:9, 10)" Those words appeared in *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2001* in the comments on the scripture text for September 11. How comforting this reminder proved to be! As a family head, do you have the daily custom of considering the Bible text and comments with your family? This is most beneficial. If it is not practical to get together in the morning, perhaps you could do so later in the day. One father said: "The evening meal has been a good time for us to discuss the daily Bible text."

[5] If you already have a good routine for discussing the daily text as a family, you are to be commended. Perhaps you could build on this by reading a portion of the Bible at the same time. Some have the practice of reading the entire chapter from which the day's text is taken. Others do consecutive reading, working progressively through a selected book of the Bible. Daily Bible reading will help your family to cultivate a wholesome fear of displeasing Jehovah and will deepen their desire to do his will.—Deut. 17:18-20.

[6] Your family's Bible-reading program and daily text consideration will be even more beneficial if you can take a few minutes to discuss the practical value of the information. The *Ministry School* textbook, page 60, offers this suggestion: "You might . . . select a few verses out of the Bible reading scheduled for the week, discuss their meaning, and then ask such questions as these: 'How does this provide guidance for us? How might we use these verses in the ministry? What do they reveal about Jehovah and his way of doing things, and how does that build up our appreciation for him?' " Such spiritual conversations will help all in your household to "go on perceiving what the will of Jehovah is."—Eph. 5:17.

[7] **Family Study:** Conducting the family study consistently each week is a fine way for family heads to show their children that spiritual things come first. One young man recalls: "Sometimes Dad would be so tired from work he could hardly keep awake, but the study was held regardless, and this helped us to appreciate the seriousness of it." Children too can contribute to the success of the

arrangement. One family with nine children regularly got up at five o'clock to have their family study because no other time was possible.

[8] For the family study to be effective, the family head must 'pay constant attention to his teaching.' (1 Tim. 4:16) The *Ministry School* textbook, page 32, states: "It could well be said that an effective family study begins with a study of your family itself. How are your family members progressing spiritually? . . . When you are in the field ministry with your children, do they feel comfortable identifying themselves before their peers as Jehovah's Witnesses? Do they enjoy your program of family Bible reading and study? Are they really making Jehovah's way their way of life? Careful observation will reveal what you, as a family head, need to do in order to establish and build up spiritual qualities in each family member."

[9] **Congregation Meetings:** Preparing for and attending congregation meetings should be an important part of your weekly routine. (Heb. 10:24, 25) At times, you may be able to prepare for some of the meetings as a family. Rather than waiting until the last minute, can you arrange to prepare well in advance? An orderly routine in this regard will improve both the quality of your preparation and the benefits you gain from the meetings. —Prov. 21:5.

[10] Quality and consistency are hallmarks of an effective spiritual routine. What if circumstances make it difficult for you to prepare for all the meetings? The *Ministry School* textbook, page 31, makes this suggestion: "Avoid the pitfalls of rushing through the material just to get it done or, worse, of not studying any of it because you cannot do it all. Instead, determine how much you can study, and do that well. Do it each week. In time, endeavor to broaden out to include the other meetings."

[11] When families arrive at meetings early, this helps to put them in the proper frame of mind to praise Jehovah and benefit from the instruction he provides. Does your family have this custom? It requires good planning and the cooperation of everyone in the household. If you often find that your family rushes about and is under stress on meeting nights, can adjustments be made in your routine? Are there things that could be cared for in advance? If one member of the family is loaded down with much to do, could others help? Would it reduce stress if everyone was ready to leave for the meeting a few minutes earlier? Good order contributes to a spirit of peace both in the family and in the congregation. —1 Cor. 14:33, 40.

[12] **Field Service:** Establishing set times for sharing in the ministry is another part of a good spiritual routine. A young man named Jayson recalls: "In my family, Saturday mornings were always devoted to field service. This was good for me because the more I went out in the ministry, the more I saw the good it accomplishes and the more I enjoyed it." Many raised in Witness households have similarly observed that having a definite time for the ministry every week helped them to progress as Christian ministers.

[13] An orderly routine can also help to make the time your family spends in field service more enjoyable and more productive. How can this be accomplished? The July 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 21, made the following suggestion: "Do you occasionally use time at your family study to assist the members of your household to prepare for the week's field service? Doing so can be very beneficial. (2 Timothy 2:15) It can help to make their service meaningful and productive. Occasionally, you might set aside an entire study session for such preparation. More often, you might deal with aspects of the field ministry in shorter discussions at the end of the family study or at some other time during the week." Has your family tried this?

[14] **Go On Making Progress:** From this consideration, have you noted areas in which your family is doing well? Commend them, and endeavor to build on these. If you see several areas that need improvement, select one or two to work on first. When they have become part of your spiritual routine, work on one or two more. Be positive and reasonable. (Phil. 4:4, 5) Establishing a good spiritual routine for your household takes real effort, but it is well worth it, for Jehovah assures us: "As for the one keeping a set way, I will cause him to see salvation by God."—Ps. 50:23.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November:** *What Does God Require of Us?* or *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. If the householder already has these, an older publication may be offered. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1988 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that have on hand *Mankind's Search for God* may also offer it. **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.*

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2002 with their next literature request. The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Croatian, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.

■ The secretary of each congregation holding title to property should review paragraphs 42-44 in the form entitled "Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls" (T-36-E 3/00). Even after real-estate tax exemption has been obtained, an annual filing is required in some states. Check carefully with your local tax assessor's office to confirm whether any action is required. All taxes and assessments are to be paid within the time provided. If any tax or assessment is questioned, promptly follow through on the matter so that it is either removed or a proper challenge is filed within the applicable time limit.

■ The video *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union* will be considered at the Service Meeting during February. Those who wish to obtain a copy of this video should request it through the congregation as soon as possible.

■ An adjustment is being made in the way the Theocratic Ministry School will be conducted during the visit of the circuit overseer. Starting in January 2003, after the opening song and prayer, the school will be conducted for approximately 25 minutes. There will be a five-minute talk on a speech quality, a ten-minute instruction talk, and a ten-minute Bible highlights. Assignments Nos. 2, 3, and 4 will not be presented. The school will be followed by a half-hour Service Meeting. After a song, there will be a half-hour program by the circuit overseer, followed by the concluding song and prayer.

■ New Publications Available:
2003 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses —Grade-two English Braille (three volumes)
Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education —Danish, German, Indonesian, Japanese, Thai, Turkish
Draw Close to Jehovah —English, Grade-two English Braille (four volumes), Grade-one Spanish Braille (six volumes)
Examining the Scriptures Daily—2003 —Grade-two English Braille (four volumes)
Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2003 —Grade-two English Braille (one volume)
The Road to Everlasting Life—Have You Found It? —English
Worship the Only True God —English
Worship the Only True God—Large Print —English

■ New Videocassettes Available:
Elementary Bible Teachings—On Videocassette, Volumes 1-2 —American Sign Language
Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union —Spanish
My Book of Bible Stories—On Videocassette, Volumes 1-4 —American Sign Language

QUESTION BOX

■ What are the advantages of attending the congregation that holds the territory where we live?

Through the congregation arrangement, we receive encouragement 'inciting us to love and fine works.' (Heb. 10:24, 25) Through the congregation we learn the truth and are equipped to fulfill our assignment to make disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20) We are also strengthened to endure trials faithfully and are provided with loving overseers to help us cope with mounting pressures and anxieties. Clearly, the congregation is vital to our spiritual survival. However, are there advantages in attending the congregation that holds the territory where we live?

Individual circumstances vary, and such factors as secular employment, an unbelieving mate, and transportation may affect one's final decision in this regard. Yet, there are definite advantages, both spiritual and otherwise, when a person associates with the congregation holding the territory where he lives. The elders may be able to get in touch with all the publishers more quickly in cases of emergency. Past Question Boxes have highlighted a number of other advantages.—May 1991, March 1976, and January 1967.

Generally, it is more convenient to attend meetings nearby, allowing us to arrive early enough to speak with others, care for necessary matters, and share in the opening song and prayer. When newly interested ones live in our neighborhood, we are usually in a better position to reach them, conduct Bible studies with them, and direct them to the meetings most convenient for them.

We are confident that family heads will prayerfully consider this matter, weighing all the factors involved in determining what is best for the spiritual and physical welfare of their family.—1 Tim. 5:8.

Show Loving Interest in "Fatherless Boys"

[1] Jehovah is "a father of fatherless boys." (Ps. 68:5) His concern for their welfare is reflected in this command that he gave the ancient nation of Israel: "You people must not afflict any widow or fatherless boy. If you should afflict him at all, then if he cries out to me at all, I shall unfailingly hear his outcry." (Ex. 22:22, 23) God's Law also included provision to assist such ones with their material needs. (Deut. 24:19-21) Under the Christian arrangement, true worshipers are admonished "to look after orphans and widows in their tribulation." (Jas. 1:27) How can we imitate Jehovah's loving interest in those growing up in single-parent or religiously divided families?

[2] **Spiritual Training:** If you are a single parent or have an unbelieving mate, conducting a regular home Bible study with your children may present a challenge. But a regular and meaningful Bible study is essential if they are to grow up to be balanced, mature adults. (Prov. 22:6) Having daily conversations with them about spiritual matters is also vital. (Deut. 6:6-9) At times, you may feel discouraged, but do not give up. Turn to Jehovah for strength and guidance as you "go on bringing [your children] up in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah."—Eph. 6:4.

[3] If you need some assistance in shouldering your Scriptural responsibilities, let your needs be known to the elders. They may be able to offer practical suggestions or assist you in establishing a good spiritual routine for your household.

[4] **How Others Can Help:** In the first century, Timothy became a zealous servant of Jehovah despite growing up in a religiously divided household. The diligent efforts of his mother and grandmother to teach him the holy writings in his youth doubtless had much to do with this. (Acts 16:1, 2; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15) However, he also benefited from association with other Christians, including the apostle Paul, who referred to Timothy as his "beloved and faithful child in the Lord."—1 Cor. 4:17.

[5] Likewise today, how beneficial it is when spiritually mature brothers and sisters take a loving interest in the fatherless boys and girls in the congregation! Do you know each one by name? Do you talk with them at Christian meetings and on other occasions? Invite them to join you in the field ministry. Perhaps you could occasionally include them, along with their single or believing parent, in your family study or in arrangements for wholesome recreation. When these younger ones view you as their friend, they are more likely to take to heart your example and encouragement.—Phil. 2:4.

[6] Jehovah is deeply interested in fatherless boys and girls, and he is blessing our loving efforts to help them make the truth their own. Many who grew up in single-parent or divided households received such encouragement and are now serving faithfully as pioneers, ministerial servants, elders, traveling overseers, missionaries, or Bethel family members. May all of us look for ways to "widen out" in our affection for fatherless ones, in imitation of our heavenly Father.—2 Cor. 6:11-13.

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Nov. 15

"Some have wondered if we need churches and temples to worship God. What do you think? [Allow for response.] Notice what the Bible says on this subject. [Read Acts 17:24.] What purpose, then, should places of worship serve? This magazine gives a Scriptural answer to that question."

Awake! Nov. 22

"Do you think that science will someday put an end to sickness and disease? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* examines some of the advances that science has made. It also shows why only the Creator has the power to eliminate sickness and death." Read Psalm 146:3-5, and offer magazines.

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Dec. 1

"Nowadays, just about everyone is finding it difficult to make ends meet. The same is true of the churches, and appeals for funds have become ever more persistent. Do you find that disturbing? [Allow for response. Then read 1 Thessalonians 2:9.] *The Watchtower* considers what the Bible says about this."

Awake! Dec. 8

"Because of terrorist threats, many wonder whether it is safe to fly. Does this concern you? [Allow for response.] The Bible acknowledges that no one is immune to misfortune. [Read Ecclesiastes 9:11.] However, this issue of *Awake!* considers how you can increase your safety and comfort when you fly."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 2002 For United States of America *km*-E Us 12/02 Vol. 45, No. 12

Proclaim the Kingdom Message

1 "I must declare the good news of the kingdom of God, because for this I was sent forth." (Luke 4:43) With those words, Jesus identified the theme of his ministry—God's Kingdom. The message we proclaim today also centers on the Kingdom, as foretold at Matthew 24:14: "This good news of the kingdom will be preached in all the inhabited earth for a witness to all the nations; and then the end will come." What truths about God's Kingdom do people need to hear?

2 *God's Kingdom now rules from the heavens and will soon replace all human rulership.* The Devil has already been ousted from heaven, and the present wicked system of things has entered its last days. (Rev. 12:10, 12) Satan's wicked old system will be completely destroyed, but God's Kingdom will not be shaken. It will remain forever.—Dan. 2:44; Heb. 12:28.

3 *The Kingdom will satisfy the wholesome desires of all obedient humans.* It will provide relief from suffering caused by war, crime, oppression, and poverty. (Ps. 46:8, 9; 72:12-14) An abundance of food will be available to all. (Ps. 72:16; Isa. 25:6) Illnesses and disabilities will be but a distant memory. (Isa. 33:24; 35:5, 6) As mankind grows to perfection, the earth will be transformed into a paradise, and people will dwell together harmoniously.—Isa. 11:6-9.

4 *We show that we want to be subjects of God's Kingdom by the way we live now.* The Kingdom message should influence our entire life course, including our goals and priorities. For example, while we have an obligation to provide for our household, we cannot allow material concerns to choke Kingdom interests. (Matt. 13:22; 1 Tim. 5:8) Rather, we must heed Jesus' admonition: "Keep on, then, seeking first the kingdom and his righteousness, and all these other things [life's material necessities] will be added to you."—Matt. 6:33.

5 It is urgent that people hear and act on the Kingdom message while there is yet time. May we help them to do so by "using persuasion concerning the kingdom of God."—Acts 19:8.

Remember Faithful Older Ones

1 Although a widow and despite advancing age, 84-year-old Anna "was never missing from the temple." Her faithfulness moved Jehovah to grant her a special blessing. (Luke 2:36-38) Today, many brothers and sisters display a spirit like that of Anna despite facing challenging circumstances. When such faithful ones must contend with health problems or limitations due to old age, they may at times feel discouraged. Let us consider some practical ways in which we can encourage them and help them maintain a good spiritual routine.

2 **Meetings and the Ministry:** When others lovingly offer to provide transportation, many faithful older ones can more easily attend Christian meetings regularly. This builds up these faithful, longtime servants spiritually and benefits the congregation as well. Have you had a share in this fine work?—Heb. 13:16.

3 Participating regularly in the ministry brings true Christians joy and satisfaction. But doing so can be a challenge for the elderly and the infirm. Is it possible that one of these dear ones could accompany you as a "fellow worker" in some feature of the witnessing work? (Rom. 16:3, 9, 21) Perhaps you could invite him or her to share with you in telephone witnessing or to go with you on a return visit or a Bible study. If the older one is homebound, could a Bible student come to that one's home for studies?

4 **Study and Association:** From time to time, some invite an older or infirm one to attend their family study, even holding the study in that one's home. One mother took her two young children to an older sister's home for their study in *My Book of Bible Stories*, and all were encouraged by the association. Such individuals also appreciate being invited for a meal or some other social occasion. If infirm ones are too weak for an extended visit, perhaps you could call or stop by briefly to read to them, pray with them, or share an upbuilding experience.—Rom. 1:11, 12.

5 Jehovah treasures faithful older ones. (Heb. 6:10, 11) We can imitate him by expressing our appreciation for them and by helping them to maintain a good spiritual routine.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting December 9

Song 193

12 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using suggestions on page 8, have demonstrations of how to present the December 15 *Watchtower* and the December 22 *Awake!*

15 min: "Proclaim the Kingdom Message."* When discussing paragraph 3, include suggestions on how to read directly from the Bible when sharing the good news.—*km* 12/01 p. 1 par. 3.

18 min: Bear Fruit in Every Good Work. Talk, with audience participation. To be handled by an elder. Review the history and progress of the local congregation, including the efforts that led to the formation of the congregation. Arrange in advance for some who were present at that time to relate encouraging experiences. Consider the prospects for further increase, and encourage all to support congregation activities zealously.

Song 119 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 16

Song 29

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25 and January 1.

15 min: Those Having Insight Will Understand. (Dan. 12:3, 10) A demonstration. Interested person asks: "How can I be sure you have the correct understanding of what the Bible teaches?" Publisher explains how to use the topical method when doing Bible research. (*w*96 5/15 pp. 19-20) Using one or two examples from the *Reasoning* book, pages 112-17, he shows how we have come to understand God's purpose for the earth by carefully analyzing Scripture texts. Publisher explains how the same method can be used to understand correctly other Bible teachings and offers a Bible study.

20 min: "Remember Faithful Older Ones."* Include comments on August 1, 1994, *Watchtower,* page 29. Mention the provision for the infirm to report field service time in increments of 15 minutes. Arrange for a few to relate experiences showing how association with such ones brings mutual blessings.

Song 154 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 23

Song 148

10 min: Local announcements. Using suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January 8 *Awake!* Encourage everyone to view the video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of January 6.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Do You Contribute to an Accurate Report?"* When discussing paragraph 2, include comments on *Our Ministry* book, pages 106-8.

Song 165 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 30

Song 152

Note: Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting to an earlier night during the week of December 30 unless the circuit overseer is visiting. All congregations should consider the convention insert as scheduled. The Recommended Lodging List should be posted on the information board at the conclusion of the Service Meeting.

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for December. If your congregation will change meeting times for the new year, kindly urge everyone to attend regularly at the new times. Mention the literature offer for January, highlighting the books that the congregation has in stock.

15 min: Review *Worship God* Book. Talk and audience discussion. Explain the arrangement for the new book to be used as the second study book. (*km* 6/00 p. 4 pars. 5-6) Invite audience to comment on features of the publication they appreciate. Highlight that certain portions of the book use questions and scriptures to prompt the student to think deeply on God's Word. Feature the example found on pages 47-9, paragraph 13.

20 min: "2003 'Give God Glory' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses."* To be handled by the congregation secretary, with the focus on paragraphs 3-10. Before considering the insert, read the December 15, 2002, convention assignment letter. When covering paragraph 10, emphasize the secretary's role as convention coordinator for the congregation. Warmly commend all for making their convention arrangements as soon as possible.

Song 147 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 6

Song 67

5 min: Local announcements.

23 min: Assistance in Obeying God's Law on Blood. Talk by a qualified elder, based on the outline provided by the branch office. The secretary should have a sufficient quantity of the following items on hand for distribution: Advance Medical Directive/Release card, Identity Card, the health-care durable power of attorney (DPA) form, and the Advance Directive Guide. These documents will be made available to baptized publishers after tonight's meeting, but they should NOT be filled out tonight. Signing, witnessing, and dating of cards may be done at the next Congregation Book Study, with assistance where necessary from the book study overseer. Those signing as witnesses should actually see the individual sign the document. The Advance Directive Guide should be carefully considered before completing the DPA. If you have already executed a DPA, it will not be necessary to complete another one unless your current one is dated prior to 2001 (August 1, 2001, for North Dakota) or does not express your present wishes. If you have moved to another state, you should execute a new DPA form for that state. Unbaptized publishers may write out their own directives for themselves and their children by adapting language from these documents according to their own circumstances and convictions.

17 min: "You Must See the Video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge.*" To be handled by a qualified elder. Get right into a discussion of the *No Blood* video with the audience, using the questions that are provided in the box on page 7. Afterward, read the last paragraph in the box.

Song 79 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

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2003 "Give God Glory" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] Through his faithful prophet Isaiah, Jehovah commanded: "Pay attention to me, O my people; and you national group of mine, to me give ear." (Isa. 51:4) In this increasingly critical time of the end, do we not agree that paying attention to Jehovah's commands is more important than ever? One of the ways we "give ear" to Jehovah is by obeying his command to congregate for worship. How we look forward to the special opportunity that our annual district conventions afford! The Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses has again arranged for many district conventions to be held in the United States branch territory in 2003.

[2] As indicated in the July 1, 2002, issue of *The Watchtower,* international conventions will also be held in selected cities, with delegates attending from around the world. Since a limited number of cities will host the international conventions, only congregations assigned to those conventions will be able to attend. But the international aspect will be felt at all district conventions. Missionaries will be present at conventions in many locations, and there will be an opportunity to hear some of their experiences. What can we do to benefit fully from the arrangements now being made for our summer conventions?

Program Times

◆

Friday and Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - 4:05 p.m.

[3] **Be in Attendance Every Day:** To benefit fully from the instruction provided through the faithful and discreet slave class, we want to make sure that we are there for the entire program. (Matt. 24:45) Do you need to ask your employer for time off to attend every day of the convention? Before Nehemiah asked King Artaxerxes for permission to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls, he "prayed to the God of the heavens." (Neh. 2:4) You should likewise pray to Jehovah for courage to ask your employer for time off to attend all three days of the convention. What if your employer is reluctant to let you have the time off? Perhaps explaining that the instruction we receive at our conventions helps us to be honest, diligent, and trustworthy workers may help him respond favorably. Additionally, if we have unbelieving family members, it would be loving to inform them of our convention plans as soon as possible.

[4] **Use the Recommended Lodging List to Make Your Reservations:** The local Rooming Department has spent the past several months obtaining sufficient hotel rooms for the convention. Your congregation has now received a Recommended Lodging List, which will be posted on the information board after this insert is considered at the Service Meeting. Book study overseers may make a copy of the list for their group *only* if the congregation has its two-day circuit assembly the week that the convention assignment letter is to be read. Even in such cases, however, copies of the Recommended Lodging List should not be made for individual publishers.

[5] Using the instructions in the box on page 4, be sure to make your reservations only from the hotels on the current list. Please do not call hotels not on the list and ask if they have a rate for the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses. In the past, some hotels have said that they had a rate for Jehovah's Witnesses, even though these hotels were not on the list. The number permitted to occupy a room is indicated on the list under the heading "Adults," with the maximum usually being four persons, including children. Please adhere to this requirement.

[6] To guarantee your reservation, you must send a deposit to the hotel for each room reserved within ten days of making the reservation. Otherwise, the hotel can offer your room to someone else. If you send a deposit by check or money order, be sure to write on it your confirmation number.

[7] If no rooms are available after calling *all* the hotels on the list or if you have a problem with a hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He should contact your convention's Rooming

Department, using the telephone number at the top of the Recommended Lodging List. Rather than calling a hotel that is not on the list, wait for a revised list to be received for your convention.

[8] **Helping Those With Special Needs:** Are there some in your congregation who may need help in attending the convention? The special needs of the elderly, the infirm, or those in full-time service are cared for mainly by their Christian relatives, but elders and others who are aware of the circumstances of such ones can also provide loving assistance.

[9] The Congregation Service Committee will review all Special Needs Room Requests submitted by publishers. Using the guidelines outlined on the form, the service committee should determine whether each request is a special need that cannot be cared for locally. Such a provision is only for publishers in good standing, along with their well-behaved children. The Rooming Department will contact the congregation secretary if they have any questions regarding a special needs request.

[10] **Attending Another Convention:** If circumstances require that you attend a convention other than the one to which you are assigned and you need to obtain a hotel room, please see your congregation secretary. He can provide you with the address of the convention headquarters, which is printed on the back of the Special Needs Room Request form. Mail your request to the appropriate address, and include with it a self-addressed, stamped envelope. If there is more than one convention held in the city, be sure your request indicates the dates you wish to attend. The Rooming Department from that city will then send you the most recent Recommended Lodging List for the specified convention.

[11] **We Are a Theatrical Spectacle:** Do people see the contrast between Jehovah's Witnesses and those of this world? Absolutely! Note some comments from hotel managers in one city: "We've always had dealings with conventions, but you have been the most cooperative and kind." "Last week we had another religious group with us. The difference between you and them is obvious." "We know we can always count on your help and cooperation." Do not such comments help us appreciate how the "wisdom from above" has a positive effect on our personality? (Jas. 3:17) Since we are "a theatrical spectacle to the world," may our conduct at all times reflect the dignity and splendor of our God, Jehovah.—1 Cor. 4:9.

[12] Since "the scene of this world is changing," we need our district conventions to help us stay spiritually focused. (1 Cor. 7:31) Making arrangements to attend every day will require effort, but it is well worth it. This year's "Give God Glory" District Convention has been prepared to help us remain steadfast as we await the execution of Jehovah's judgment upon Satan's world. May we let nothing prevent us from receiving the instruction Jehovah has prepared for us.—Isa. 51:4, 5.

How to Make Your Hotel Reservation

◆

1. Call hotels during regular business hours, using the telephone numbers on the Recommended Lodging List.
2. Inform the hotel that you are attending the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Provide the dates you will check in and check out of the hotel.
4. Be sure that you are receiving the room rate(s) shown on the Recommended Lodging List. Do not accept a higher rate.
5. If no more rooms are available, call another hotel on the list.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order. *Never* send cash. If deposit is made by check or money order, write the confirmation number on the front. Mail *within ten days*.
8. If you have any problems, speak with your congregation secretary.

Please:

- Stay only in hotels on the Recommended Lodging List.
- Reserve only the rooms you will actually use.
- Keep your *first* reservation.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 2 to December 23, 2002. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Meditating on Jehovah's marvelous qualities is a vital step in drawing close to him. (Ps. 143:5) [*w*00 10/15 p. 4 par. 6]
2. The joining of the two sticks mentioned at Ezekiel 37:15-24 has a modern parallel in that in 1919 the faithful anointed ones were unified under Christ, their "one king" and "one shepherd." [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 25 par. 13.]
3. Though higher critics of the Bible have called in question the historicalness of the book of Daniel, archaeological finds over the years have completely routed their assertions. [*si* p. 138 par. 4]
4. When what we hear comes from a seemingly authoritative source or someone who claims to have great knowledge, there can be no solid reason to reject it as false. [*w*00 12/1 p. 29 pars. 7-8]
5. The expression "the minor prophets" aptly describes the lesser importance of the last 12 books of the Hebrew Scriptures. [*si* p. 143 par. 1]
6. Amos was one of "the sons of the prophets" when Jehovah called him and sent him to prophesy to Judah and Israel. (2 Ki. 2:3) [*si* p. 148 par. 1]
7. Obadiah 16 foretells national extinction for the Edomite people as a result of their hatred for Judah. (Obad. 12) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 4/15 p. 30 box.]
8. The "pure language" spoken of at Zephaniah 3:9 includes the proper understanding of the truth about God and his purposes. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*01 2/15 p. 27 par. 18.]
9. The reason that Jesus felt intense emotional pressure in the garden of Gethsemane is that he was concerned about how his death as a despised criminal would affect Jehovah and His holy name. (Matt. 26:38; Luke 22:44) [*w*00 11/15 p. 23 par. 1]
10. The "Philistine" that becomes "like a sheik in Judah," as described at Zechariah 9:6, 7, prophetically describes members of the other sheep today who are trained by "the faithful and discreet slave" and given authority as needed. (Matt. 24:45) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*95 7/1 p. 23 par. 14.]

Answer the following questions:

11. How can our responsibility to preach be compared to Ezekiel's responsibility as a watchman? (Ezek. 33:1-11) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 1/1 p. 28 par. 13.]
12. What parallel to Ezekiel's vision regarding the dry bones was seen in modern times? (Ezek. 37:5-10) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*88 9/15 p. 24 par. 12.]
13. What is the most convincing proof of divine inspiration of the book of Zechariah? [*si* p. 169 par. 5]
14. What is represented by the city in Ezekiel's vision? (Ezek. 48:15-17) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*99 3/1 p. 18 par. 22.]
15. How can it be reasoned on the basis of Isaiah 2:2-4 that events taking place in Israel today do not specifically fulfill Bible prophecy? [*rs* p. 223 par. 3]
16. What lesson can be learned from Daniel's reaction to the king's decree that no petition be made to any god or man other than the king for 30 days? (Dan. 6:7-10) [Weekly Bible reading; see *dp* p. 125 pars. 25-8.]
17. In proclaiming what message of Jehovah has the remnant been like a lion among the nations? (Mic. 5:8) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*81 7/15 p. 23 par. 10.]
18. What is meant by the expression "with his own rods you pierced the head of his warriors," at Habakkuk 3:14? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*00 2/1 p. 22 par. 15; *w*81 8/1 p. 29 pars. 6-7.]

19. What is indicated by the use of the word "probably" at Zephaniah 2:3? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*01 2/15 p. 19 par. 8.]

20. According to Zechariah 8:6, in the years since 1919, how has Jehovah accomplished what might have seemed too difficult from a human standpoint? [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*96 1/1 p. 16 pars. 18-19.]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. We speak to Jehovah by means of ________, which is worshipful address to God; in turn, the principal means by which he speaks with us is through his ________. (Ps. 65:2; 2 Tim. 3:16) [*w*00 10/15 p. 5 pars. 2-3]

22. Jesus Christ can be identified as Michael by comparing Jude 9 with 1 Thessalonians 4:16 (*Revised Standard*), where Jesus Christ's command for the resurrection to begin is described as "________"; moreover, the name Michael means "________," evidently indicating that Jesus is the one who takes the lead in upholding Jehovah's sovereignty and destroying God's enemies. [*rs* p. 218 pars. 1-2]

23. "The going forth of the word to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem" occurred in ________, marking the beginning of 69 weeks of years, which ended with the appearance of the Messiah in ________. (Dan. 9:25) [Weekly Bible reading; see *dp* p. 190 par. 20–p. 191 par. 22.]

24. Joel 2:31, which tells of the sun turning into darkness, parallels Matthew 24:29, 30, where ________ describes his coming as the Son of man with ________. [*si* p. 147 par. 13]

25. ________ prophecy concerning Assyria and its capital city, ________, exalts Jehovah's justice and supremacy and gives us confidence that Jehovah will mete out justice to all the wicked. [*si* p. 160 par. 11]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. The book of Ezekiel emphasizes that Jehovah is (generous; humble; holy) and makes known that (the development of one's personality; the sanctification of Jehovah's name; being a good neighbor) is more important than anything else. [*si* p. 137 par. 33]

27. Ezekiel, who lived at the same time as Daniel, confirms that Daniel was an actual person, naming him along with (Noah and Job; Moses and Joshua; Elijah and Elisha). [*si* p. 138 par. 2]

28. In harmony with Daniel 2:34, 35, 45, the stone that strikes and crushes the image represents (Armageddon; hard-hitting judgment messages proclaimed by God's people; the Messianic Kingdom). [*si* p. 142 pars. 20, 23]

29. The symbolic nation of locusts mentioned at Joel 1:4-6 represents (the nation of Israel; anointed Christians; the Roman armies). (Acts 2:1, 14-17) [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*98 5/1 p. 9 par. 9.]

30. "The kingdom of the Son of his love" mentioned at Colossians 1:13 is (the Messianic Kingdom; Christ's rule over the Christian congregation from Pentecost of 33 C.E. onward; the Thousand Year Reign of Christ). [*rs* p. 232 par. 4]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Hos. 6:6; Joel 2:32; Zech. 4:6, 7; 13:3; Rom. 12:2

31. We must not allow the cultural or secular standards of this system of things to shape our thinking. [*w*00 11/1 p. 21 par. 5]

32. What pleases God is, not a multitude of formalistically offered sacrifices, but expressions of loyal love based on knowing him. [Weekly Bible reading; see *si* p. 145 par. 16.]

33. Knowing, respecting, and relying on the person bearing the divine name is essential for salvation. [Weekly Bible reading; see *w*89 3/15 p. 30 box.]

34. God's purpose is accomplished, not because of any human power, but by means of his spirit, which enables his servants to overcome mountainous obstacles and to endure in divine service. [*si* p. 169 par. 2]

35. The loyalty that marks Jehovah's organization transcends every human relationship, such as that of close flesh-and-blood relatives. [*si* p. 171 par. 24]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* Alternative offers are: *The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*, *My Book of Bible Stories*, or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1988 may be offered. Congregations that do not have older 192-page books may offer *Mankind's Search for God.* **February:** The new book *Draw Close to Jehovah* will be featured. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies.
- The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following Saturdays: March 8, 2003 (Gilead graduation); May 10, 2003 (spring cleaning); September 13, 2003 (Gilead graduation); and October 4, 2003 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.
- The Memorial invitations for **2003** in the primary language of each congregation will soon be sent to your congregation. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested immediately on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Memorial invitations are available in Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Dutch, East Armenian, English, French, Greek, Gujarati, Hmong, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Macedonian, Marshallese, Papiamento (Curaçao), Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi (Gurmukhi), Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.
- Please note that the Memorial for the year **2004** will be on Sunday, April 4, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. The elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner. Because of the importance of the occasion, in assigning a Memorial speaker, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother every year. If there is a capable elder of the anointed who can give the talk, he should be selected.
- All baptized publishers present at the Service Meeting the week of January 6 may obtain the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and the Identity Card for their children.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**110**	**121.8**	**115.3**	**54.1**	**4.9**
Pios.	**88,341**	**67.4**	**50.4**	**21.4**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**22,278**	**50.3**	**40.0**	**13.3**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**860,617**	**9.3**	**8.7**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**971,346**		Baptized: **1,948**		

You Must See the Video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge*

How well informed are you about the options that are available in the field of bloodless medicine? Do you understand what some of the transfusion alternatives are and how they work? Watch this video, and test your knowledge with the following questions. —Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in viewing the video with small children.

(1) What is the main reason why Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood transfusions, and where is that principle found in the Bible? (2) When it comes to medical care, what do we desire? (3) What basic right do patients have? (4) Why is it rational and responsible to reject blood transfusions? (5) When severe blood loss occurs, what two urgent priorities do doctors have? (6) What health risks are associated with blood transfusions? (7) What are some of the tools that surgeons have available to them to minimize blood loss during surgery? (8) What should you want to be informed about regarding any transfusion alternative? (9) Can serious and complicated surgeries be performed without the use of blood transfusions? (10) What are a growing number of physicians willing to do for Jehovah's Witnesses, and what may eventually become the standard of care for all patients?

It will no doubt be helpful to view the *No Blood* video along with any Bible students, non-Witness mates or relatives, workmates, teachers, and schoolmates who might raise questions about our stand on blood. Acceptance of any treatments presented in the video is an individual, conscientious decision.—See "Questions From Readers" in the June 15 and October 15, 2000, issues of *The Watchtower.*

Do You Contribute to an Accurate Report?

[1] Many Bible accounts include specific numbers, which help to convey a vivid picture of what took place. For example, Gideon vanquished the camp of Midian with just 300 men. (Judg. 7:7) Jehovah's angel killed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. (2 Ki. 19:35) At Pentecost 33 C.E., about 3,000 were baptized, and shortly thereafter the number of believers grew to some 5,000. (Acts 2:41; 4:4) It is evident from these accounts that God's ancient servants put forth much effort to compile a complete and accurate record.

[2] Jehovah's organization today instructs us to report our field service activity each month. Our faithfully cooperating with this arrangement contributes to the effective oversight of the preaching work. Reports may reveal that an aspect of the ministry needs attention or that more workers are needed in a certain part of the field. In the congregation, field service reports help the elders identify those with potential to expand their ministry as well as those who may need assistance. And reports on the progress of the Kingdom-preaching work provide encouragement for the entire Christian brotherhood. Are you doing your part to contribute to an accurate report?

[3] **Your Personal Responsibility:** At the end of the month, do you find it difficult to remember what you have done in the ministry? If so, why not record your activity each time you share in field service? Some use a calendar or a diary. Others carry a blank field service report slip with them. At the end of the month, promptly submit your report to your book study overseer. Or, if you prefer, you may place your report in the report box at the Kingdom Hall. If you forget to turn in your report, promptly contact your book study overseer rather than wait for him to approach you. Conscientiously reporting your activity shows respect for Jehovah's arrangement and loving consideration for the brothers assigned to collect and tabulate the reports.—Luke 16:10.

[4] **Book Study Overseer's Role:** As an alert and attentive shepherd, the book study overseer takes an interest in the group's activity throughout the month. (Prov. 27:23) He knows whether each publisher is having a regular, meaningful, and joyful share and is quick to offer assistance if any have not participated for an entire month. A word of encouragement, a practical suggestion, or an invitation to accompany him in field service is often all that is needed.

[5] At the end of the month, the book study overseer makes sure that all in the group have followed through on their responsibility to report their activity so that the secretary can submit an accurate congregation report to the branch office by the sixth of the next month. As the end of the month approaches, it may be helpful for him to give the group a reminder and have report slips available at the book study location. If any are forgetful about reporting their activity, he can provide appropriate reminders and encouragement.

[6] Submitting our field service reports promptly contributes to a report that accurately reflects what was accomplished in the field. Will you do your part by promptly reporting your activity each month?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Dec. 15

"At this time of the year, many think about Jesus' birth. Did you know that there are valuable lessons we can learn from the Bible's account of his birth? [Allow for response. Then point to page 5, and read 2 Timothy 3:16.] This issue of *The Watchtower* considers some of these lessons."

Awake! Dec. 22

"Do you feel that parents have reason to be concerned about how today's violent entertainment is affecting their children? [Allow for response.] Many parents use this Bible verse as a guideline. [Read Psalm 11:5.] This issue of *Awake!* helps families to examine the risks associated with electronic games."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Jan. 1

"When people lose a loved one in death or suffer from an illness, they often wonder, 'Why does God allow this?' Perhaps you have asked the same question. The Bible shows that God feels for those who suffer. [Read Isaiah 63:9a.] This magazine explains why we can be sure that God will end suffering."

Awake! Jan. 8

"Do you think that government should interfere with freedom of speech? [Allow for response.] What if the speech involves talking to others about religion, as we read here? [Read Acts 28:30, 31.] Recently, this question was brought before the U.S. Supreme Court. You are invited to read about it in this issue of *Awake!*"